

Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97
260 Madison Street, Oak Park
April 12, 2022 Regular Meeting

This meeting was held in-person and virtually using Livestream during the time of the Coronavirus pandemic. Board members met in person along with Administration.

President Kim called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Kim, Ross Dribin, Hurd Johnson, Spurlock, Moore, Kearney, Kinhal

Absent: None

Also Present: Interim Superintendent Dr. Patricia Wernet, Associate Superintendent of Education Felicia Starks Turner, Interim Senior Director of Human Resources Tim Kilrea, Director of IT Services Will Brackett, Senior Director of Communications Amanda Siegfried, Chief Academic and Accountability Officer Ebony Lofton, Senior Director of Equity Carrie Kamm, Senior Director of Special Education Donna Middleton, Senior Director of Buildings & Grounds Jeanne Keane, Senior Director of Finance Patrick King, Cheryl Sullivan, Susan Mura, Emilie Creehan, Caroline Roselli Robbins Schwartz, and Lonya Boose Board Secretary.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Hurd Johnson moved, seconded by Moore that the Board move into executive session for the purpose of Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees, Collective Negotiating and Litigation 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1)(2)(11) at 5:37 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

President Kim motioned that the Board move into Open Session at 7:04 p.m. All present members of the Board were in agreement. The Board convened in Open Session at 7:13 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

We are quickly approaching COVID community levels of greater than 200/100,000 in Oak Park. The best way to protect our vulnerable students, staff and family members is to return to universal masking without waiting until hospitalizations rise. We can continue to safely proceed with hot lunch, field trips, and parent volunteers, but returning to required masking would allow all of this to be safe for every student and family. Please do not leave anyone out.

Sincerely,

Robin Kalish

I am writing as a parent of three D97 students who are old enough to take the IAR this year. As a parent, I am concerned about the focus that the district has placed on the IAR this year and the consequences this has for our students. As a community, we have pride in our school district- we have great teachers, cool opportunities, especially at the middle school level and see academic achievement every day in our students. Oak Park is a desired community to live in with housing prices through the roof this spring with many houses receiving multiple offers.

However, this year, D97 has placed incredible focus on a test that does not show the overall academic achievement of our students. A test that our own ISBE has decided that is not useful and has plans of creating a more useful testing structure for the future. Our students have experienced pep rally, received IAR T-Shirts that will likely never be worn again, received gifts from younger students as well as lectures from teachers on the importance of the IAR. I have also experienced the case where a substitute forced one of my kids to take the test even though he was refusing the test. I would love to see this excitement over general academic achievement and not over an IAR. We should celebrate kids for other achievements or recognize academic achievement- something that seems to be lost-rather than promoting the IAR. I just question what this lesson is for our kids. I am proud of one of my 5th graders today who questioned the test and wondered why is she taking this and how this took so much time - with kids missing specials, band, reading and other instruction time. This is the independent thinking that we should promote rather than a test that our own state finds unuseful.

Susan Raphael

4. SPECIAL REPORTS

SPECIAL
REPORTS

4.1 School Update

Caroline Roselli, the Districts Legal Counsel provided an update to the Board regarding mitigations and authority to implement and or remove mitigations along with liability for such decisions moving forward. Regarding the districts current direction, Caroline noted that these decisions are still under local school district control.

Dr. Wernet and Amanda Siegfried further presented:

Keeping Schools Safe

Post-Spring Break

During and prior to spring break, the district communicated current travel recommendations, encouraged individuals to monitor for symptoms and to stay home if sick. The district also shared information on local testing, including an event held by the Oak Park Department of Public Health on April 3. Closely monitoring COVID-19 metrics, there has been a slight increase in positive cases among our students.

Continued Mitigations

IDPH and CDC continue to recommend layered mitigation strategies for schools to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The IDPH guidance also allows for school districts to remove specific prevention strategies based on local conditions (community transmission and local vaccine coverage). The following mitigations are in place at all District 97 buildings as of April 12, 2022:

Mask Recommended, Not Required
Maximize Physical Distancing
Weekly SHIELD Testing
Staying Home When Sick

Cleaning and Disinfection
Handwashing/Respiratory Etiquette
Ventilation
Encouraging Vaccination

Mask Reminders

Masks continue to be Required in both the Nurses' offices and SHIELD collection sites. Masks are Strongly Recommended for individuals returning to school after testing positive for COVID-19 days 6-10 and also for Asymptomatic close contacts who remain in school days 0-10 along with classrooms that are in outbreak status.

Updates:

Hot Lunch for all schools resumes on Monday, April 11. Schools continue to maximize physical distancing as much as possible, as many are back in their cafeterias.

Field Trips are moving forward, PTO's and schools are planning while also following mitigations that are currently in place.

Visitor restrictions are scheduled to be lifted on Monday, April 18. Details will be communicated with staff and families later this week. All visitors to school property must follow the requirements outlined in Policy 8:30: Visitors to and Conduct on School Property, as well as current school mitigations to include Masks recommended, not required and maximized physical distancing.

Vaccination/Testing Requirements for Visitors:

- Dropoff/Pickup/Front Office Visits – No requirements
- Meetings with adults – No requirements
- Events – No requirements
- Classroom/lunch volunteers, anyone engaging directly with students – Proof of Vaccination or negative test within 48 hours, criminal background check (per district policy)

Community and School Metrics

As of April 12, 2022 ~95% of Staff has submitted proof of vaccination. Of the 5,609 total students enrolled, All Students: 78.9% are vaccinated. Eligible students are those Ages 5 and UP: 80.6% this information does not include students younger than 5 years in early childhood and PKP. All schools are over 70% vaccinated with six schools over 80%.

The district will continue to monitor village and community metrics while also following up on SHIELD data and communicate with families about current process. The district will also communicate any changes to the visitor restrictions.

5. ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEMS

5.1 APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Spurlock moved, seconded by Moore that the Board of Education, of Oak Park Elementary School District 97, approves the consent agenda as presented.

- 5.1.1 Approval of Minutes from March 15, 2022 Board Meeting
- 5.1.2 Bill List
- 5.1.3 Personnel

Ayes: Kim, Kearney, Ross Dribin, Hurd Johnson, Spurlock, Moore, Kinhal
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

5.2 DISCUSSION AND ACTION

5.2.1 Appointment of Beye Elementary School Principal

Ross Dribin moved, Seconded by Moore that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 moves to approve the recommendation of Administration to appoint Cheryl Sullivan as Principal of Beye Elementary effective July 1, 2022.

Ayes: Kim, Kearney, Ross Dribin, Hurd Johnson, Spurlock, Moore, Kinhal
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

5.2.2 Appointment of Irving Elementary School Principal

Kearney moved, Seconded by Kinhal that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 moves to approve the recommendation of Administration to appoint Susan Mura as Principal of Irving Elementary effective July 1, 2022.

Ayes: Kim, Kearney, Ross Dribin, Hurd Johnson, Spurlock, Moore, Kinhal
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

5.2.3 ERATE Approval (3/15/22)

Spurlock moved, Seconded by Ross Dribin that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97 award the eRate Internet contract to AT&T and Crown Castle in the amount of \$780 and \$1,350, respectively (+ taxes and fees) and award of firewall licensing and UPS in the amount of \$7,998 and \$8,364, respectively as presented at the March 15 board meeting.

Ayes: Kim, Kearney, Ross Dribin, Hurd Johnson, Spurlock, Moore, Kinhal
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

5.2.4 Approval of Technology Plan (3/15/22)

Moore moved, Seconded by Spurlock that the Board of Education of Oak Park School District 97, directs that \$849,272.96 be included in the Districts 2022-2023 Technology Plan budget to cover purchases not already board approved for year two of the 3-year technology plan as presented March 15, 2022. Of the above total, an estimated \$350,000 in savings by grants and device sales revenue will offset cost.

Ayes: Kim, Kearney, Ross Dribin, Hurd Johnson, Kinhal, Spurlock, Moore
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

5.2.5 Approval of SY23 Teacher Leadership Roles (3/15/22)

Hurd Johnson moved, Seconded by Spurlock that the District 97 Board of Education moves to approve the Teacher Leadership Roles for the 2022-2023 school year with a financial impact of \$720,000.

Ayes: Kearney, Spurlock, Ross Dribin
Nays: Kim, Moore, Kinhal, Hurd Johnson
Absent: None
Motion failed.

*There was additional discussion of this motion after the initial vote (failed). The discussion included possible changes to the SY23 leadership roles presented. 1. Possibly being rewritten considering additional factors, or 2. Keeping some added roles, and removing other additional roles to lower overall cost. After the administrative team provided the Board with rationale for key components of the request including SPED needs, Principal Zelaya joined the meeting by conference call to provide insight from the Principals perspective. Zelaya noted that Principals rely upon these roles for building level leadership support. These roles have an impact on the daily support of students and staff respectively. Further noted, if these roles were not approved Principals would have a tough job of providing needed supports to Staff and Students. Board member Kinhal requested after discussion at the board table, that the motion again be brought forth, considering the impact statements made by Administration.

Restated Motion:

Kinhal moved, Seconded by Moore that the District 97 Board of Education moves to approve the Teacher Leadership Roles for the 2022-2023 school year with a financial impact of \$720,000.

Ayes: Kim, Kearney, Ross Dribin, Hurd Johnson, Kinhal, Spurlock, Moore
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

5.2.6 Approval of Food Service Agreement (3/15/22)

Moore moved, Seconded by Kearney that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 moves to extend the food service intergovernmental agreement with Oak Park River Forest High School for the 2022-2023 school year.

Ayes: Kim, Kearney, Ross Dribin, Hurd Johnson, Spurlock, Moore, Kinhal
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

5.2.7 Approval of Authority Designation for Levy

Ross Dribin moved, Seconded by Hurd Johnson that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 authorizes the Senior Finance Director or Superintendent of the District to rescind the prior abatement resolution filed by the District pursuant to Public Act 102-0519 and to file a new abatement resolution in the amount of \$614,688.

Ayes: Kim, Kearney, Ross Dribin, Hurd Johnson, Spurlock, Moore, Kinhal
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

6.1 Boiler Update: Longfellow (action 4/26/22)

Summary

The three existing steam boilers located at Longfellow Elementary were installed in 2002. Each boiler is manufactured by Weil-McClain Model 88 Series 1. These boilers have had multiple leaks causing corrosion between and allowing water loss. They also have heavy impacted scale even with our boiler chemicals in place. The burners are obsolete and need an upgrade. One of the three boilers have been shut down for the last 4 years and is not repairable. A lifespan of 15 years or more is typical for a boiler which can be extended years longer with proper maintenance. The boilers should be replaced as soon as possible in order to reduce the potential for an emergency situation where heat is not available to the facility and the school is shut down with loss of instruction

An RFP for the project was placed in the Wednesday Journal on 2/23/2022. Eight proposals for the above-captioned project were received at the District Office, 260 W Madison Street, Oak Park IL 60302, on Thursday March 10, 2022 and publicly opened at 11:08 a.m. I have enclosed a copy of the Bid Tabulation Sheet summarizing the proposals received. The bid results were discussed with FAC on 3/21/2022 at 7:00 pm. FAC unanimously recommended that the Board of Education approve the contract for boiler replacement at Longfellow Elementary School, to the lowest bidder who met all requirements, Anchor Mechanical Inc.

Bid Recommendation

Anchor Mechanical Inc. is the low-bidder meeting all requirements of the contract documents and bidding requirements at \$548,000. STR and CS2, our MEP consultant, performed due-diligence to check references, as well as verified the scope in their bid to be consistent with the contract documents.

Anchor Mechanical Inc, 255 N California Ave, Chicago, IL 60612

Base Bid:\$548,000.00 (includes \$50,000 allowance)

Total Recommendation.....\$548,000

Administration will be seeking a motion that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97 approve the Longfellow Boiler Replacement Project at the April 26, 2022 meeting.

6.2 Donation and Disposal of District Furniture (action 4/26/22)

Buildings & Grounds Dept would like to donate and / or dispose of the existing boardroom executive chairs due to the damaged condition of the chairs. Administration will be seeking board approval for the donation and / or disposal of these chairs on April 26, 2022.

6.3 COSTCO Backpack Donation (action 4/26/22)

Costco would like to donate 364 unused backpacks from their store’s inventory. This backpack donation will provide new backpacks to students who may not be able to obtain one on their own such as youth in care or students identified as homeless. The District then utilizes Title I funds to purchase school supplies to put in the backpacks before distribution. The donation is an estimated value of \$7,280. Administration will be seeking a motion that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97 accepts the donation in the amount of \$7,280 at its April 26, 2022 meeting.

6.4 Whittier PTO Donation (action 4/26/22)

The Whittier PTO would like to donate the money to purchase and install (2) half courts with 8ft hoops, (1) 6ft hoop, court lines and blacktop mural, (2) benches and (1) outdoor garbage can. Whittier PTO will fundraise from the surrounding community to cover the full cost of the courts throughout May. If they do not fundraise at least 80% of the funds the project will be moved to 2023. This is an opportune time as B&G is re-asphalting the blacktop area over the summer. The donation is an estimated value of \$23,000. Administration will be seeking a motion that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97 accepts the donation in the amount not to exceed \$24,000 at its April 26, 2022 meeting.

7. BOARD ASSIGNMENTS

BOARD
ASSIGNMENTS

IGOV forum is scheduled for May 21 9-11am.

OPEF Bingo Bash is scheduled for May 13 at the 19th Century Club. Early bird pricing through 4/15. Tickets are \$100 each. Bingo is always fun, and the support goes to Oak Park Education Foundation.

8. CONCLUDING ITEMS

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ITEMS

No Board Remarks

AGENDA MAINTENANCE

The draft agenda for the April 26, 2022 meeting was reviewed.

10. ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

All Seven Present Members of the Board were in agreement that the meeting be adjourned. There being no further business to conduct, President Kim declared the meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary