

**Official Minutes of the  
Oak Park Board of Education District 97  
260 Madison Street, Oak Park  
July 27, 2021 Special Meeting**

This meeting was held in-person and virtually using Zoom during the time of the Coronavirus pandemic. One or more of the board members met in-person and everyone else were virtual.

President Kim called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Present: Kim, Spurlock, Kearney, Moore, Hurd Johnson, Ross Dribin  
Absent: Duffy  
Also Present: Dr. Griff Powell Interim Superintendent, Lori Grant IASB Field Services Director,  
Michael Arensdorff Senior Director of Technology, Lonya Boose Board Secretary

ROLL CALL

**OPEN SESSION**

Kim motioned that the board move into Open Session at 6:03 p.m. The motion was seconded by Spurlock. All members of the Board were in agreement. The Board reconvened in Open Session at 6:05 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**No Public Comment**

PUBLIC COMMENT

**ACTION ITEM**

ACTION ITEM

**Discussion/Possible Action: Resolution to Manage Mitigations**

Kearney moved, seconded by Moore that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 moves to approve the Resolution as presented.

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

**Resolution to Respond to Pandemic Mitigation Measures**

**WHEREAS**, in December 2019, a novel coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19 was first detected in the United States, causing outbreaks of the disease, prompting the Governor of Illinois to declare an ongoing gubernatorial disaster first effective in March 2020; and for the start of the 2021-2022 School Year;

**WHEREAS, Illinois** has fully adopted for all K-12 public and nonpublic schools CDC guidelines that state: "Masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated. Consistent and correct mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained.";

**WHEREAS**, schools should work with the Oak Park Department of Public Health officials to determine the prevention strategies needed in their area by monitoring levels of community transmission (i.e., low, moderate, substantial, or high) and local vaccine coverage, and use of screening testing to detect cases in K-12 schools;

**WHEREAS**, a school in a community with substantial or high transmission, with a low teacher, staff, or student vaccination rate, and without a screening testing program should continue to require masks for people who are not fully vaccinated.

**WHEREAS**, schools that remove any of the prevention strategies based on local conditions should remove them one at a time and monitor closely (with adequate testing through the school and/or community) for any increases in COVID-19 cases;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education (Board) of Oak Park Elementary School District 97, Cook County, Illinois (School District) is the governing body of a public elementary school district organized, existing, and operating pursuant to the Illinois *School Code* (105 ILCS 5/1, *et seq.*); and

**WHEREAS**, the Board recognizes the ongoing need to promptly respond to conditional factors that may jeopardize the health and safety of students and staff as it relates to the current COVID-19 pandemic;

**WHEREAS**, Section 10-16.7 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/10-16.7) requires school boards to direct, through policy, the superintendent in his or her charge of the administration of the school district;

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Section 10-16.7 of the *School Code*, the Board has the discretion and the ability to authorize the Superintendent to increase mitigation measures, including those related to mask requirements for students and staff, based upon contextual factors that suggest such additional mitigation is necessary to protect the health and safety of students;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Education of Oak Park School District 97, Cook County, Illinois, as follows:

1. **Authorization to Develop and Implement Plans.** The Superintendent is authorized to develop and implement COVID-19 mitigation measures in response to the transmission of COVID-19 during the 2021-2022 school year.
  - a. **Provision of Information to Board.** The Superintendent will periodically inform the Board of Education regarding the monitoring of contextual factors guiding decisions and of the impact on amendments related to the implementation of the existing COVID-19 mitigation plan;
  - b. **Considerations for Planning.** In amending the COVID-19 mitigation plan and procedures, the Superintendent should consider the following non-exhaustive list of factors:
    - COVID-19 outbreaks, cases in schools or rising positivity rates
    - Level of community and school transmission
    - Community-wide vaccination coverage
    - Ability to implement screening and/or testing of unvaccinated students and staff
    - Guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education; Illinois Department of Public Health and/or the Center for Disease Control and the Oak Park Department of Public Health.
  - d. **Consideration of Information; Assistance.** In developing the plans and procedures, the Superintendent may seek information, input, and assistance of such persons and constituencies as the Superintendent deems necessary, and in such form or format as determined in the discretion of the Superintendent.
2. **Expiration of Authority.** The authority granted by this Resolution shall expire at the completion of the last day of the school year in 2021-2022, unless earlier modified or terminated by the Board of Education.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

Kim moved, seconded by Ross Dribin that the Board move into executive session for the purpose of Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees or Legal Counsel for the District, Collective Negotiations, Self-Evaluation, practices and procedures, or professional ethics, when meeting with a representative of a statewide association of which the District is a member 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1)(2)(16), at 6:07 p.m.

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

ADJOURNMENT

Moore moved, seconded by Spurlock that the meeting be adjourned. There being no further business to conduct, Vice President Kim declared the meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

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Board President

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Board Secretary