

**Official Minutes of the  
Oak Park Board of Education District 97  
260 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois  
September 10, 2019 Meeting**

President Broy called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Broy, Kim, Breymaier, Spurlock, Liebl, Kearney (arrived at 6:32 p.m.) and Moore  
Absent: None  
Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Carol Kelley, Assistant Superintendents of Human Resources Gina Herrmann, Director of Communications Amanda Siegfried, Chief Academic and Accountability Officer Ebony Lofton, Senior Director of Administrative Services Felicia Starks Turner, Senior Director of Equity Carrie Kamm, Senior Director of Technology Michael Arensdorff, Senior Director of Buildings and Grounds Jeanne Keane, Consultant Rob Grossi, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Spurlock moved, seconded by Breymaier 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 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1) at 6:30 p.m.

Ayes: Spurlock, Breymaier, Liebl, Kim, Broy, and Moore  
Nays: None  
Absent: Kearney  
Motion passed

**OPEN SESSION**

OPEN SESSION

Moore moved, seconded by Breymaier that the Board move into Open Session at 6:48 p.m. All members of the Board in attendance were in agreement. The meeting reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

**SPECIAL REPORTS**

SPECIAL REPORTS

**INTRODUCTION OF MAJOR ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR 2019 TAX LEVY**

Rob Grossi explained that there are four major financial decisions that the Board needs to make; budget, tax levy (decided in December), Issuance of the phase two bonds, and tax abatement (decided in March). Grossi explained that the decisions are all interrelated and should be done under the umbrella of long-term financial stability.

He shared that the Finance Oversight and Review Committee (FORC) is scheduled to review this data and the five-year projections during their October 2, 2019 meeting. He told the Board that FORC has already heard about the budget, and that he met with President Broy and member Spurlock about the finances. He suggested that because of the TIF transition, the district should start talking about the levy in September.

Grossi explained that during the past 24 years there have been two TIFs in Oak Park (Madison Street and Downtown), and since then, the property values have grown. The district has never received taxes from these properties because of the TIFs. The district is now at a point in time when it has one opportunity to claim those taxes, which total about \$5,000,000. He explained that the decision by the district to claim the taxes does not increase the property taxes paid by the property owners. Grossi explained that if the district decides not to claim the taxes next year, than the option will no longer be available, but if they decide to take the taxes, they can chose to take it every year. He shared that this year the district received \$3,700,000 from tax revenues, but if the district chooses not to claim the taxes, this money would not be available in the future. Grossi shared that there is a strong possibility that there will be a property tax freeze in Cook County. He suggested that taking the taxes might allow

INTRODUCTION OF MAJOR ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR 2019 TAX LEVY (Continued)  
the district to not take additional DSEB and pay interest. Grossi told the Board that the goal would be to have a balanced budget every year. If the district can do that, then future referendums would not be necessary.

Board comments included interest in knowing how much a household would save if the district did not claim the taxes. Interest was expressed in hearing about what other districts are doing for a rainy-day fund, and about what other issues have come up recently. A summary of all of the variables that Grossi suggested was recommended. One Board member expressed concern that he feels like he is in the dark with the budget this year.

**ACTION ITEMS**

ACTION ITEMS

**4.1.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 13, 2019 BOARD MEETING**

Spurlock moved, seconded by Kearney, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the revised minutes from the August 13, 2019.

Ayes: Spurlock, Kearney, Breymaier, Broy, Moore, Kim, and Liebl  
Nays: None  
Absent: None  
Motion passed.

**4.1.2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 14, 2019 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

Moore moved, seconded by Breymaier, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the August 14, 2019 special Board meeting as presented.

Ayes: Moore, Breymaier, Spurlock, Broy, Kearney, Kim, and Liebl  
Nays: None  
Absent: None  
Motion passed.

**4.1.3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 19, 2019 BOARD MEETING**

Breymaier moved, seconded by Moore, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the August 19, 2019 special Board meeting as presented.

Ayes: Breymaier, Moore, Kearney, Kim, and Liebl  
Nays: None  
Absent: None  
Abstained: Spurlock, and Broy  
Motion passed.

**3.2 APPROVAL OF THE REVISED CONSENT AGENDA**

Spurlock moved, seconded by Breymaier, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the revised consent agenda.

- 3.2.1 Approval of Bill List (amended)
- 3.2.2 Personnel
- 3.2.3 Acceptance of donations

Ayes: Spurlock, Breymaier, Kearney, Broy, Kim, and Liebl  
Nays: None  
Absent: Moore  
Motion passed.

Interest was expressed in seeing more detail on the expense reports. It was suggested that a glossary identifying funds be made available for the Board members.

**3.3.1 APPROVAL OF FUEL INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE VILLAGE**

Kim moved, seconded by Spurlock, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the Fuel Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village that was presented on August 13, 2019.

Ayes: Kim, Spurlock, Moore, Breymaier, Broy, Kearney, and Liebl  
Nays: None  
Absent: None  
Motion passed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Kelley shared an update on the work being done in the schools and the efforts being made to support positive climate and culture. She thanked the Board of Education for their support. She reported that both middle schools have a climate and culture coach, Lauren Olson at Brooks Middle School, and Gina Harris at Julian Middle School. She reported that the two coaches are working with Carrie Kamm who is leading this process. Dr. Kelley noted that the elementary schools are sharing a coach.

Dr. Kelley reported that the principals met last week with leaders from DePaul University's community mental health board. She told the Board that she is excited to see what will be happening with student's wellness and mental health. She explained that this work is so exciting that the district will be featured in a national conference in Washington DC.

Dr. Kelley told the Board that during the last two years, the student lunch and learns have expressed the need for additional adults in the hallways. Because of this feedback, the middle schools now have three additional monitors in the halls who are building relationships with students. Dr. Kelley reported that during the Ed Council meeting yesterday, that one of the teachers spoke highly of the hallway monitors in her school.

Dr. Kelley shared a video created by Julian students that explained the many extracurricular programs offered at their school. The video was showed in advisory, with a goal of getting every student involved in at least one activity.

Dr. Kelley reported that the schools shared expectations regarding cell phone usage, and are supporting the existing cell phone policy. She explained that the high school is also trying to not use phones during the day. Member Liebl explained that the Policy committee wanted to give the schools a chance to see if the new initiatives would work. The process is being rolled out by building communities and written communications will be sent home.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

**PUBLIC OFFICIAL BONDS – FIRST REVIEW**

Grossi explained that Public Official Bonds are issues in one-year increments (July 1 – June 30), and should equal 25 percent of the most amount of cash the district has on hand. He reminded the Board that Dr. Kelley is now the district's Treasurer. This item will return to the Board for action on September 24, 2019.

**CONTRACT WITH KQ COMMUNICATIONS – RENEE MALONE**

Dr. Kelley explained that work needed to be done before a replacement for Chris Jasculca could be hired. She had made a connection with Renee Malone during a summer professional meeting and partnered with her to support Amanda Siegfried who was the coordinator for communications at that time. The proposal is asking the Board to approve the partnership with KQ Communications through the month of October. Dr. Kelley explained that the difference in Chris' salary and Amanda's new salary, and the cost of the new coordinator would make up all but about \$2,000 of the cost of this contract. This item will return to the Board for action on September 24, 2019.

Member Kearney expressed concern that Policy 4:60 is unclear, and asked how the process for hiring consultants works. Dr. Kelley explained that the district requests quotes and administration makes a decision. Depending on the cost, and the reason for working with that individual, it may or may not come to the Board for approval. The Board was reminded that the Superintendent has the discretion to hire who she chooses.

**APPROVAL OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE VILLAGE OF OAK PARK REGARDING THE JOINT FIBER PROJECT**

This item was tabled. President Broy will share the message sent to the Village about the fiber project with the Board.

**HATCH BOILER**

Jeanne Keane explained that Hatch experienced the same issues with the boiler in that school as did Mann School last year. She explained that the boiler is leaking, and the pipes will also need to be replaced. She told the Board that if the district waits to fix it, the school could end up with no heat at all. Keane explained that most of this cost was included in the budget. She recommended a maintenance agreement for the school boilers at a cost of \$25,000.

**BOARD ASSIGNMENTS**

BOARD ASSIGNMENTS

**STANDING BOARD COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORT FOLLOW UP (as needed – FAC, FORC, CCE and CLAIM)**

**FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FAC)**

Keane reported that the next FAC committee meeting is scheduled for September 30. The committee will be talking about the ADA options for Beye School.

The Hatch School STEAM lab was also discussed. The committee is waiting on pricing, noting that the media center would need a new ceiling, lighting and furniture.

Keane reported that people are responding very well to the new Lincoln and Longfellow School facilities. The crew is going through the punch list, and the Lincoln playground equipment is scheduled to be delivered this coming week.

**FINANCE OVERSIGHT AND REVIEW COMMITTEE (FORC)**

The next meeting of the FORC committee is scheduled for October 2.

**COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (CCE)**

It was reported that the CCE committee met yesterday. They discussed the communication plan and what they would like to see. Educating people on the difference between Board and administrative responsibilities was suggested, along with the need to consider talking points and protocols. It was suggested that a line of elevation be shared with the public, and the need to consider communications ahead of meetings. The Board was asked to consider pushing back the equity discussion, giving the district time to invite the public. Interest was expressed in the Board receiving the draft equity plan prior to the September 17 community event.

Dr. Kelley explained that the operation of the district and the schools is to support the growth of the certified staff. Our goals tie into how people are evaluated. We are scheduled to present goals and draft plan on September 24. That timing allows us to formally say to the schools that they are approved, we collect data between October and March 1 for principals. She explained that delaying approval would impact the evaluation process. She suggested advertising the equity discussion on September 24 by including additional banners on the website. A Board member suggested that if the district wants to be transparent, allowing people to share feedback on the implementation plan would be important. It was suggested that the Board structure the September 24 meeting in a way that would allow for community input. Dr. Kelley explained that the individual schools will be holding engagement sessions with their families to discuss the School Improvement Plans. She reminded the Board that the implementation plan for the equity policy is imbedded in every level of the organization.

The Board was reminded that there will be a two week window between the presentation on September 24 and Board approval on October 15. This allows for time for feedback, but the Board could push back the approval until they are comfortable with the quantity of feedback.

Board comments included recommending that the opportunities be balanced. Concern was shared that if community members do not know that the plan exists, they will not know that the Board has a transparent process.

#### COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (CCE) (Continued)

Dr. Kelley explained that the planning process began last spring with conversations with the community. She explained that some of the recommendations came from the community meetings and some from the planning sessions held at the schools. She told the Board that everything that was heard in the engagement process will be highlighted in the draft report. Dr. Kelley explained that her intent is to unveil the draft plan on September 17, overlaying the feedback from the surveys and the community events.

Board concern was expressed that the plan sounded piece meal and not very transparent. It was suggested that people are excited about the equity policy and are interested in knowing how the district will achieve the goals in the policy. It was suggested that the plan should be released so it does not feel rushed. Interest was expressed in making the plan understandable, noting the benchmarks. It was noted that the district is doing a lot of great thing, but the community does not always hear about them; having a constant reminder of how the district is moving forward with the policy implementation would be helpful.

A discussion took place about the plan, the process, and the timeline. In the end, the Board and Dr. Kelley agreed that the Board would receive a copy of the draft implementation plan on September 16, and communications would be updated every trimester or so and released from every level within the organization. The vital signs of success will be shared at the board table and in other ways.

Member Liebl reported that she is going to the ED-RED luncheon next week, and attended a training session last week.

#### INTERGOVERNMENTAL LIAISON REPORT FOLLOW UP (as needed – IGOV, COG, PTO council, CEC, OPEF, Community Council, Tri-Board on Equity, Policy, and Self-Evaluation)

##### IGOV

It was reported that the next IGOV assembly has been scheduled for October 26, 2019. The County Assessor has been invited to speak about property taxes during this gathering. The public is invited to this event.

It was reported that the Village of Oak Park is no longer a member of IGOV. Some village board members find the meetings valuable and will still attend.

It was reported that the Park District received some donated land at Highland and Madison and will use the location to build a new recreation center.

##### COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COG)

This group is scheduled to meet tomorrow, September 11, 2019.

##### PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION COUNCIL (PTOC)

This group met on the first Monday of the first week back to school. It was reported that Venus is the new PTO Council president.

##### COLLABORATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD (CEC)

It was reported that this group has not met.

##### OAK PARK EDUCATION FOUNDATION (OPEF)

This group will meet on September 18, 2019. Member Spurlock is participating in the creation of the OPEF strategic plan. The group is looking at ways to increase accessibility, marketing, and fundraising.

##### COMMUNITY COUNCIL

It was reported that next Thursday will be this groups first meeting of the year.

##### TRI-BOARD ON EQUITY

It was reported that this group has not met.

**POLICY COMMITTEE**

It was reported that the Policy committee met. The team will be reviewing a few sections of the policy manual at a time, looking for clarity. Minor revisions will be brought to the Board for approval. The team will make sure that all policies that need to cross reference the Equity Policy have the proper notations.

**BOARD RETREAT DATES**

It was noted that the March, 2020 dates that were identified for a Board retreat conflict with the beginning of spring break, and the June, 2020 date conflicts with graduation.

**CONCLUDING ITEMS**

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**BOARD REMARKS**

Interest was expressed in using the report template that was created after the last retreat, noting that some of the upcoming topics might do well using this format. It was suggested that the Board members share their ideas on what topics should be delivered in the report template format. The ideas will be entered into a spreadsheet for consideration during the next meeting. It was suggested that some of these topics might be worth advertising to the public.

**AGENDA MAINTENANCE**

The draft agenda for the September 24, 2019 Board meeting was reviewed and revisions were recommended.

The Board members talked about ways to respond to public comment during Board meetings, and wondered if there are any legal limitations on this topic.

**ADJOURNMENT**

ADJOURNMENT

Moore moved, seconded by Breymaier to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business to conduct, President Broy declared the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

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Board President

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Board Secretary