

Official Minutes of the  
Oak Park Board of Education District 97  
260 Madison Street, Oak Park  
January 30, 2024 Regular Meeting

This meeting was held in-person and virtually using Livestream. Board members met in person along with Administration.

President Kearney called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Present: Kearney, Moore (arrived 6:10pm), Ross Dribin, Kim, Burns, Hurd Johnson (arrived 6:07 pm),  
Spurlock

Absent: None

Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Ushma Shah, Assistant Superintendents Dr. Luis De Leon & Patrick Robinson, Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations Dr. Sheila Johnson, Chief Learning Innovation Officer Dr. Ebony Lofton, Chief Technology Officer Michael Arensdorff, Senior Director of Communications Amanda Siegfried, Senior Director of Data Analytics Anna Colaner, Interim Senior Director Human Resources Dr. Christine Zelaya, and Lonya Boose Director/Board Secretary.

ROLL CALL

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Spurlock moved, seconded by Kearney 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 6:04 p.m.

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

**OPEN SESSION**

President Kearney motioned that the Board move into Open Session at 7:00 p.m. All present members of the Board were in agreement. The Board convened in Open Session at 9:37 p.m.

OPEN  
SESSION

\*Please note, the Board of Education held their regularly scheduled Committee of the Whole meeting at 7pm. The Business meeting of the board re-convened at 9:37PM.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Public Comment

PUBLIC  
COMMENT

**6. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE**

The Board determined at the start of the meeting; this agenda item will be removed from the agenda.

**7. ACTION ITEMS**

ACTION  
ITEMS

## **7.1 Consent Agenda**

Spurlock moved, seconded by Kim that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 moves to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

- 7.1.1 Approval of Minutes from the December 12, 2023 Board Meeting
- 7.1.2 Bill List
- 7.1.3 Personnel
- 7.1.4 Approval : SY25 Budget Authority (12.12.23)
- 7.1.5 Approval : Depositories and Signatories

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

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## **7.2 Action**

### **7.2.1 Approval: Revised Secure Gun Storage Policy (12.12.23)**

Spurlock moved, seconded by Moore that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 moves to approve the revised Secure Gun Storage Policy as presented.

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

### **7.2.2 Approval: District 97 and Park District of Oak Park IGA 18-month extension (12.12.23)**

Spurlock moved, seconded by Burns that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 moves to approve the 18-month IGA extension between District 97 and the Park District of Oak Park for shared facilities and cooperative planning.

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

### **7.2.3 Approval: Revised Recommendation for Summer 2024 Programming (12.12.23)**

Moore moved, seconded by Burns That the Board of Education, of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 moves to approve the revised Summer 2024 Programming as presented.

Ayes: Kim, Kearney, Ross Dribin, Moore, Hurd Johnson, Burns, Spurlock  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

Motion passed.

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### **7.3. Action | Contracts and Agreements Over \$25,000**

#### **7.3.1 Authorization to Execute Contract with Tyler Technologies (12.12.23)**

Kim moved, seconded by Moore that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 moves to approve the authorization to execute a contract with Tyler Technologies for purposes of Time and Attendance.

Ayes: Kim, Kearney, Ross Dribin, Moore, Hurd Johnson, Burns, Spurlock

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

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## **8. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **8.1 Recommendation for Increased Daily Rate for Substitute Nurses (action 2.13.24)**

**Issue Statement:** This memo aims to request an increase in the rate of pay for substitute nurses as a means to enhance a highly qualified substitute pool and ensure our nurse vacancies are supported.

**Background Information:** For several years we have needed to utilize outside agencies such as Maxim and Assured Health to fill our nurse vacancies as we have been unsuccessful in securing a nursing sub-pool based on our current daily rate of \$140/day. Nursing sub-candidates have shared that the rate of pay is substantially less than what they earn working in a hospital or from an agency. Currently, our reliance on agencies to cover these vacancies requires our district to pay an hourly rate of no less than \$80.00 per hour which can cost the district approximately \$560.00 per nurse, per day.

**Our recent expenditures for nursing substitutes are as follows:**

22/23 - the total paid for nurse substitutes was \$29,545

23/24 -the total paid through 11/17/23 is \$811

23/24, there is \$31,235 budgeted for nurse substitutes

It is important to note that the 23/24 total paid is not for lack of need. This more accurately reflects our inability to secure nurses in our D97 sub-pool or through our agencies as they also are experiencing a shortage of available nurses and hospitals are their priority. This results in unfilled sub-nurse positions in our buildings.

**Recommended Resolution:** In order to attract qualified nurses to our district, administration requests that we increase our daily rate to \$225.00 for this specialized role. This rate is in alignment with what Registered Nurses (RNs) receive from other employers and will ensure our schools have high-quality care to meet our student's needs.

**Action Requested:** The administration is requesting action be taken on this item at the February 13, 2024 Meeting.

BOARD  
ASSIGNMENTS

**BOARD ASSIGNMENTS**

Update will be provided at the next meeting of the Board.

**CONCLUDING ITEMS**

CONCLUDING  
ITEMS

Board Remarks

- Board member Spurlock noted, she recently attended a wrestling event held by Brooks and Julian. She spoke to a parent of a child with special needs. The parent went on to share his gratitude for the wrestling program and its inclusivity. Spurlock also speaks to the diversity of students, gender and ethnicity within the program.
- Board member Moore, Dr. Shah what you are doing, we can't do in every district. You are unapologetic in creating space for black families and staff. This had not been done before and I appreciate your courage, it is long overdue. I appreciate you as a mom of three black children.
- Board member Moore shared her appreciation for Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Schools, Patrick Robinson. He has shown up in every space, has hit the ground running and appreciate his partnership and presence.

**EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION OF THE BOARD**

EXECUTIVE  
CLOSED  
SESSION OF  
THE BOARD

The Board of Education moved back into Executive Closed Session of the Board after public business.

Spurlock 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 9:56 p.m.

**9. 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 Kearney declared the meeting adjourned by voice vote at 10:49 p.m.

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Board President

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Board Secretary