

Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97
260 Madison Street, Oak Park
February 13, 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 6:02 p.m.

Present: Kearney, Moore, Ross Dribin, Kim, Burns, Spurlock

Absent: Hurd Johnson

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. Eboney Lofton, Chief Technology Officer Michael Arensdorff, Senior Director of Communications Amanda Siegfried, Senior Director of Data Analytics Anna Colaner, and Lonya Boose Director/Board Secretary.

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Spurlock moved, seconded by Burns 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 6:03 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

OPEN SESSION

President Kearney motioned that the Board move into Open Session at 7:06 p.m. All present members of the Board were in agreement. The Board convened in Open Session at 7:10 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

*Please note, President Kearney brought forward request to amend the Consent Agenda to introduce revised Personnel Report. Board member Spurlock made motion, Board member Burns seconded motion to approved amended agenda. Board was in agreement by voice vote.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Peggy Kell

As a former teacher, Union President and currently a tax payer, I come before you tonight about a couple things; First the relationship between staff and administration in the district. When I taught in the district, we were lucky enough to have consistency in district administration at both central office and in the buildings. Having leaders that came up through the ranks and then stayed in administration. Administrative positions enabled dialogues between staff and administrators to be trustful and productive when people know each other, there's a give and take in the conversation, initiatives are introduced and can receive feedback and modifications with everyone involved feeling they put the best product forward for all students.

Here, it's been a revolving door over the past 10-years with central office administrators and some building principals is not a good model for any District nor is the exodus of a large number of teachers in Oak Park. This means there is very little institutional memory with administrators and staff so much movement means constant change in what has been initiated. This breeds adversarial relationships. Why

PUBLIC COMMENT

is there no contract agreed to yet, Negotiations is not pleasant but has to be done and they have always been interest based. I am curious as to what happened to interest based procedures in District 97? It's disappointing because we were a model for this kind of negotiations for years, it's also disappointing for me to pay a full-time sub for a teacher that is in limbo about their future because of a suspension. Where is the timely investigation and follow through? Protecting students is important but so is supporting your staff. Students are being deprived of a valuable teacher and Coach. DCFS does not mandate whether a teacher should be out the classroom, so why is the district dragging its feet. The Board needs to ask their one employee, the Superintendent what is being done to remedy this situation? 100 days, please get it done.

**SUPERINTENDENT
UPDATE**

6. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

6.1 Celebrations

Black History Month

District 97 celebrates Black History Month, with a focus on the rich, innovative and pioneering accomplishments both in and outside of the Oak Park Community. Schools showcased Black history in many ways, including: read-a-thons, arts, music and community spotlight. The Oak Park Public Library has a spotlight on Dr. Percy L. Julian. Dr. Shah, Superintendent of schools has also encouraged students and families to visit the exhibit at the Idea Box. Browse, Snap and Share a photo and your experience.

We will continue to highlight and celebrate Black legacy and history this month and beyond. Please look out for our family communications which will further provide opportunities for learning and reflection.

Hatch Music Department Receives National Recognition

The Hatch Elementary School Steel Band and music department received national recognition this month through an Advocacy in Action award, presented by Music for All. Music teacher, Evan Jacobson, received the Elementary Excellence award for exceptional programming and strategies of the Steel Band and music department. Advocacy in Action is a program of music for all designed to collect, recognize and share effective practices and initiatives that support music education.

Congratulations Hatch Music!

6.2 Portrait of an Oak Park 8th Grade Graduate Update

(presented by: Dr. Ebony Lofton & Amanda Siegfried)

The portrait design leads share updates on the staff design and affinity sessions held in November 2023, and the community-wide engagement process of V2 of the Draft Portrait which is now underway for Winter 2023. The Irving Elementary community was first up this past Monday night. Some great feedback and information were shared with the design team. Dates for the remainder of February and March including several virtual sessions are scheduled. Updates will be shared though both school and district-wide communications. Parents, Staff and Community Stakeholders have ongoing opportunities to provide feedback via. Let's Talk. The team will be back next month with more updates.

6.3 Illinois State Report Card: District Workforce Data

(presented by: Dr. Anna Colaner)

Dr. Colaner presented the next series, District Workforce Data Assessing progress through the district equity policy. The district’s goal is to achieve Excellence with Equity. The presentation provides data focused on:

- What does the Equity Policy call for in “Workforce Equity”
- Identify analytic questions to assess progress
- Walk-through the Illinois Report Card Data metrics connected to “Workforce Equity” and summary statements
- Gather Board of Education questions for further inquiry

*The presentation and complete details are available by viewing the livestream or the materials in the board packet.

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 revised Consent Agenda as presented.

- 7.1.1 Approval of Minutes from the January 30, 2024 Board Meeting
- 7.1.2 Bill List
- 7.1.3 Revised Personnel

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

7.2 Action

7.2.1 Approval: SY25 Draft School Calendar

Spurlock moved, seconded by Burns that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 moves to approve the SY25 revised school calendar as recommended.

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

7.2.2 Approval: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Oak Park Teachers Association (OPTA) regarding SY25 School Calendar

Moore moved, seconded by Spurlock that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 moves to approve the MOU with OPTA regarding the SY25 School Calendar

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

Motion passed.

7.2.3 Approval: Recommendation for Increased Daily Rate for Substitute Nurses (1.30.24)

Spurlock moved, seconded by Burns that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 moves to approve the administration’s request to increase the daily rate for substitute nurses to \$225.00.

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

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

DISCUSSION
ITEMS

8.1 SY24-25 Crossing Guard Contract Extension (action 3.19.24)

(presented by: Dr. Felicia Starks Turner, Chief Safety Officer)

Background

Oak Park District 97 had an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) for several years with the Village of Oak Park to provide crossing guard services. As part of the IGA, the Village contracted with Andy Frain Services, Inc. since at least 2010 to provide crossing guards during the school year. When the IGA expired at the end of the 2021-2022 school year, D97 contracted with Andy Frain Services, Inc. for crossing guard services for the 2022-2023 school year.

D97 administration published a request for proposals (RFP) for crossing guard services in the newspaper in April 2022 and posted on the D97 website as well. Andy Frain Services, Inc. was the only response to the RFP. Please note the D97 annual cost history from Andy Frain (billed through the Village of Oak Park) below:

2015-2016	\$175,000
2016-2017	\$175,000
2017-2018	\$175,000
2018-2019	\$146,575
2019-2020	\$190,359
2020-2021	\$182,403
2021-2022	\$290,000

Per discussions with Andy Frain, the recent price increases are due to market conditions, as surrounding communities (primarily CPS) are paying crossing guards a higher hourly wage. Andy Frain has needed to increase their rates from \$17/hr to \$17.74/hr to remain competitive and be able to properly staff our intersections. There are total of 30 intersections staffed with 38 crossing guards on a daily basis. Andy Frain also provides a full-time field supervisor dedicated solely to our District. This contract is for 1 year, with an annual renewal option for the following 2 years.

A 2022 analysis of D97’s peer districts and other school districts in the Chicagoland area was completed to determine if other crossing guard vendors exist in the marketplace and if other alternatives are feasible.

Of the 23 Districts analyzed, 11 of the districts use their local police department, 5 contracted directly with Andy Frain, and 7 managed it themselves. D97 has concluded the most viable option for FY 25 is to continue to contract directly with Andy Frain, due to their extensive experience with D97 and the community, and they are the only vendor in the local marketplace that can provide crossing guard services.

Please note the D97 annual cost history from Andy Frain (billed through District 97) below:

2022-2023	\$335,000
2023-2024	\$335,767
2024-2025	\$416,546 (Proposed Estimate)

D97 will continue to monitor data and work with Andy Frain to ensure intersections are properly staffed daily to ensure safe passage for our students throughout the school year.

8.2 SY25 Food Service and Student Registration Fees (action 3.19.24)
(Dr. Sheila Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations)

On an annual basis, the administration reviews and determines whether lunch and/or registration fees should be increased. The fees are based upon many factors including, year of last increase, any District registration expense increase, cost of food, any ISBE mandates regarding food prices, and comparable fees at surrounding school districts.

The 2023-2024 (current) registration fee schedule is as follows:

- Early Childhood Program -The \$29.00 Student Fee covers Instructional Materials.
- Grades K-5 - The \$180 Student Fee includes: \$77.00 for Instructional Materials; \$83.00 for Before/After School & Lunch Supervision; and \$20.00 for Technology.
- Middle School - The \$225 Student Fee includes: \$20.00 Activity Fee; \$78.00 for Instructional Materials; \$107.00 for Before/After School & Lunch Supervision; and \$20.00 for Technology.

Registration Fee Recommendation

The recommended 2024-2025 registration fee schedule is as follows:

- Early Childhood Program -The \$29.00 Student Fee covers Instructional Materials.
- Grades K-5 - The \$180 Student Fee includes: \$77.00 for Instructional Materials; \$83.00 for Before/After School & Lunch Supervision; and \$20.00 for Technology.
- Middle School - The \$225 Student Fee includes: \$20.00 Activity Fee; \$78.00 for Instructional Materials; \$107.00 for Before/After School & Lunch Supervision; and \$20.00 for Technology.

It is recommended that the 2024-2025 registration fees remain unchanged.

The USDA determines a targeted paid lunch price each school year as part of the National School Lunch program requirements. A school district is required to perform a paid lunch equity calculation if their paid lunch prices are below the threshold set by the USDA for the applicable school year (\$3.56 for 2023-2024). The calculation essentially determines a weighted average of meal prices and has various requirements for increasing food prices, which includes a 2% rate increase plus the Consumer Price Index (7.4%) for 2023-2024. However, there is a cap of \$0.10 per meal on how much ISBE can require a district to increase prices per the federal guidelines.

The historical food service fee schedule has been as follows:

- Elementary - The food program pricing is as follows: Breakfast \$1.75; Lunch \$2.90; and Milk \$.45 per carton. One carton of milk is included with each breakfast and lunch.
- Middle School -The food program pricing is as follows: Breakfast \$1.75; Lunch \$3.10; and Milk \$.45 per carton. One carton of milk is included with each breakfast and lunch.
- Adult \$3.25

Food Service Price Recommendation

The recommended 2024-2025 food service prices are as follows:

- Elementary - The food program pricing is as follows: Breakfast \$1.75; Lunch \$3.00; and Milk \$.45 per carton. One carton of milk is included with each breakfast and lunch.
- Middle School -The food program pricing is as follows: Breakfast \$1.75; Lunch \$3.20; and Milk \$.45 per carton. One carton of milk is included with each breakfast and lunch.
- Adult- \$3.25

Administration is recommending a \$.10 per meal increase for lunch for the 2024-2025 school year for the following reasons:

- The National School Lunch Program paid lunch equity requirements noted above require D97 to raise prices \$.10 at a minimum based on the results of the calculation.
- D97 participated in a food price survey of nearly 60 other school districts in Illinois. The average elementary price was \$3.16 and average middle school price was \$3.25. D97 is still below these averages even with the price increase.
- D97 raised food prices last year by \$.10 and these incremental increases will be necessary to keep up with rising inflation.

8.3 Tax Levy Refund and Abatement (action 2.27.24)

(Dr. Sheila Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations)

The Illinois General Assembly passed Public Act 102-0519 in August 2021, which allows taxing bodies to recapture lost revenues paid for certain property tax appeals paid from district tax collections over the past 12 months. For Oak Park District 97, that figure is \$657,191 in Tax Year 2023.

Without any action taken by the Board, the County will automatically extend these additional taxes to all the taxpayers of the district above the 5.0% tax levy increase that was approved by the Board in December 2023. If the Board elects to abate (eliminate) this additional tax levy, then it will need to

approve an abatement resolution and file such resolution with Cook County by April 1, 2024. To provide some historical perspective, the Board of Education abated (eliminated) the 2022 Tax Year Recapture Levy in the amount of \$981,650.

Administration is again recommending that the 2023 Tax Year Recapture Levy be abated for the following reasons:

1. This revenue source is not included in our budget or long-term financial projections
2. This abatement of the tax levy will generate a one-time reduction on the district's revenue stream and will not have a perpetual impact.
3. The additional extension will impose an additional new tax of approximately \$50 (assuming \$400,000 market value home) on local taxpayers as the recapture extends amounts already paid in over the tax base a second time.
4. It is also likely that the process will cause a tax shift to the residential tax base as the largest refunds are typically paid to commercial and industrial taxpayers.

8.4 2023 Audit Results (action 3.19.24)

(presented by: Dr. Sheila Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations & Nick Cavaliere, Baker Tilly US, LLP)

The audit of financial statements for District 97 was completed for year ending June 30, 2023. The audit was performed based on information obtained from meetings with management, data from systems and knowledge of District's operating and risk assessment procedures. The audit also includes key areas of potential risk for the district. This information should help inform future planning.

Complete audit results and details can be reviewed by looking at the materials included in the February 13, 2024 Board of Education materials packet. We anticipate the Board approving the findings for the Audit at its March 19, 2024 meeting.

8.5 eRate (action 3.19.24)

(presented by: Michael Arensdorff, Chief Technology Officer & Will Brackett, Director of IT Services)

Preview of purpose and content of report: Overview of the bid process, bid summary and recommendation for the E-rate proposal

Budgetary impact: Impact is \$1,099,925 (one time cost) the wireless/switch/licensing infrastructure (\$1,048,509), one new firewall (\$46,184) and licensing renewal for second firewall (\$5,232). After the remaining eRate funds reimbursements the total district impact will be \$704,552.33

From our current budget, both costs have been planned for from a capital expense long term planning/budgeting with Dr. Sheila Johnson and Rob Grossi. This year we will not have a lease payment for our student/staff devices and that budgeted cost will cover the net cost of this recommendation.

In addition, we are working with a number of vendors to identify the value for all old hardware tied to this project. We will then leverage this revenue to go towards any non-eRate eligible items and/or services if they arise from the project of this magnitude.

Data to be presented: February 13, 2024, seeking approval on March 19, 2024

Other areas of the presentation include:

- Network Infrastructure Switch E-rate Proposal and Recommendation
- Firewall Recommendations

*Complete presentation is available by viewing the live stream on the District 97 YouTube channel or board packet materials on the Board of Education website.

8.6 Phase 3 Summer Construction (action 2.27.24)

(John Pahlman, Senior Director of Buildings and Grounds)

Gender Neutral Toilet Rooms Julian Middle School

Summer 2024 construction work at Julian - Phase three: Installation of Gender-Neutral Toilet Rooms at Julian Middle School.

Purpose of the Report: The purpose of this report is to provide the Board of Education information regarding the Summer 2024 Construction bid opening. At 2:00 PM on February 8th, 2024, sealed bids were publicly opened at the Oak Park Elementary School District 97 Administration Building for the D97 Summer 2024 Julian Gender Neutral Toilet Room Renovation project. Bids included the following trades: General Trades, Plumbing, Mechanical and Electrical.

Based on the review of the bid results and verifying the scope in the bids to be consistent with the contract documents, Bulley & Andrews recommends the award of the following contractors for General Trades, Plumbing, Mechanical and Electrical.

Trade	Proposed Contractor	Actual Award Value
General Trades	Bulley & Andrews	\$385,436
Electrical	Interactive Building Solutions	\$37,012
Mechanical	Helm Mechanical	\$8,400
Plumbing	Terry Plumbing	\$98,950
Totals		\$529,798

FAC committee will review the bid summaries on February 20th 2024.

We will ask the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97 approve the Summer 2023 Construction Phase 3 bids at its February 27th, Special Business Meeting

BOARD ASSIGNMENTS

- FAC recently met, and part of the discussion was items that were on tonight's agenda. We are working to revise the FAC committee charge and currently going through a campaign for board committee vacancies.
- FORC recently met and had discussions around categorizing peer districts and comparison data for Education Fund Criteria. There was also discussion around the Levy Abatement
- PTOC recently met and was provided an update on the Portrait of an Oak Park 8th Grade Graduate. There were also discussions around conducting Safety walks, members of PTOC will

BOARD
ASSIGNMENTS

be participating in the Racial Equity/REIA work jointly with a representative from the Race Forward Organization

- CEC last met as a full tri-board. Finances for the Collaboration for Early Childhood is in good shape, there were questions from the Boards around expansion into neighboring communities. During the expansion, how would CEC maintain the great work currently being done and accessible. District 97/200/Village Board working on equity access here in Oak Park.
- EDRED recently held a dinner couple weeks ago, will follow up once summary from this event is provided.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

CONCLUDING
ITEMS

Board Remarks

- Board member Moore: Math acceleration has been sent to families. Can we be mindful of offerings for this program alongside offerings for other programs in the district and with the Park District that may be running at the same time. My family is having to make choices.
- Board member Ross Dribin: My family is also having to work through some registration conflicts and student choice. If we can be mindful of out of school times and those that want to take math acceleration, that would be helpful.
- Board member Spurlock: It has been much easier to sign-up for independent study, in prior years much more difficult.

9. ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

All six 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 9:09 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary