

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
Meeting - November 8, 2011**

President Barber called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Barber, Gates, Felton, Sacks, Traczyk, Spatz, and O'Connor

Absent: None

Also Present: Superintendent Al Roberts, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Therese O'Neill, Director of Human Resources Trish Carlson, Director of Policy, Planning and Communications Chris Jasculca, Director of Special Education Mike Padavic, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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SESSION

Traczyk moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 6:32 p.m. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Traczyk, Gates, Sacks, Barber, O'Connor, Felton, and Spatz

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Sacks moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education move into open session at 6:57 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

SPECIAL REPORTS

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REPORTS

Oak Park Education Foundation

Deb Abrahamson and Angie Dodd shared the Foundation's accomplishments and plans for the year. The ladies updated the Board on the status of Art Smart, Geared Up, Vex Robotics, Architecture Adventure, and B.A.S.E. Camp. Accomplishments include revamping the Science Alliance program, ensuring programs are fresh and equitable, expansion of B.A.S.E. Camp, filling the need in the community, raising funds to support the programs during the school year, and increasing the volunteer base.

The Foundation is reaching over 60 percent of District 97 students. Efforts have been made to ensure that programs are being offered annually at each school and annual program audits are being performed.

Appreciation was extended to Dr. Roberts, President Barber and Lisa Schwartz for their support and participation.

Oak Park Education Foundation (Continued)

Board comments and suggestions included interest in future summer programs, and seeing the actual number of touches the programs have with each child per year. Board members noted growth and commented on the Foundations ability to hire high school students during the summer.

Fast ForWord Pilot

Dr. Roberts, Jonathan Ellwanger, Harla Hutchinson, Duane Meighan, Sheila Carter, Mike Padavic, Paula Andries and Jean L'Heureux came to the table. Dr Roberts explained that Fast ForWord could be a great tool to support RtI. The program was used as a free pilot during the summer school session and the results of that session were shared.

Dr. Roberts explained that the pilot was done in less than perfect conditions. Beye, Holmes and Hatch participated as sites. Beye houses Hephzibah and offered the program to those families from June 14 – July 15 during the Extended School Year Program. Holmes school used the 90-minute a day program for fourth – eighth grade students and special education students, and reported that it was a good experience for the older students. Hatch ran two sessions of the 90-minute a day program from June 27 thru July 29 with 30 students.

L'Heureux compared scores to the MAP scores. She reported that of the 18 students who participated, 68 percent of them achieved typical growth. 48 percent of the students who did not take Fast ForWord achieved typical growth. Average growth of participants was seven months. She noted that students in the program were more attentive and eager to learn.

Statistics for the entire pilot identified 86 students in grades one through eight for 46 days. Attendance was 78 percent, participation was 92 percent, and 61 percent of the students showed gains.

The Reading Progress Indicator (RPI) is a nationally normed assessment used for analysis by the Fast ForWord program. RPI is correlated with numerous assessments including NWEA MAP, FCAT and MCAS. Map and Dibels scores will also be reviewed to support the results of RPI. Using the RPI data, 25 participants did not show improvements.

Dr. Roberts reported that Hutchinson will continue to compile data before a recommendation will be brought to the Board. He reported that the district needs to find a systematic way to put kids through the first tier of RtI. Hutchinson will also take a serious look at the gains experienced during the pilot and the gains the company provided, with an expectation of returning to the Board on November 29. Additionally, Dr. Roberts recommended an audit of the programs being used to determine if they are being used with or without fidelity. He explained that Fast ForWord is not a reading program. The program is an intervention that may cause us to eliminate other programs

Fast ForWord Pilot (Continued)

because they will be no longer needed. He explained that implementation of the Fast ForWord program still needs to be determined, explaining that it might be better off as a tier one intervention for certain groups of students before potentially implementing it district wide. He explained that the district would purchase the product; therefore it could be used as the district chooses.

Board comments and concerns included interest in knowing how many of the full attendance students did not make gains. Interest was also expressed in hearing more about the current reading programs for the younger students and how many reading programs the district is currently using. Interest was expressed in knowing what other Illinois districts are using the program and if they use it as a tier one intervention. Interest was expressed in seeing the actual numbers of the sub-groups and what their issues were. Interest was expressed in seeing an actual comparison to the MAP scores.

Dr. Roberts suggested that a demo be made available for the Board members prior to the next Board meeting, offering them an opportunity to get a better understanding of the program. He also explained that this program will be discussed during an Education Council meeting.

Principal Sheila Carter – Administrator Award

Principal Sheila Carter from Hatch School was acknowledged for earning the Administrator Award from the Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. This award is given to administrators who "have given distinguished, varied and individual service to the physical education and health education professions, and who have advocated for quality physical education, health and dance programs." Carter, who was nominated for the award by retired District 97 teacher Sandy Noel, will be honored at the association's annual state convention on November 17, 2011.

5-Year Projection Report

Therese O'Neill came to the table to share the 5-year projections. She explained that she will return with revised projections in April and July. She suggested routine updates on the projections because of the state revenue and the referendum commitments.

Board comments included a request for the report to be written in lay person's terms, and an understanding of what the projections mean in relationship to the transparency associated with the referendum. A Web page dedicated to the projections was suggested and a request for receiving the three charts produced by member Spatz was made.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PUBLIC
COMMENT

ACTION ITEMS**2.1.1 Approval of Minutes of October 22, 2011**

Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the minutes from the October 22, 2011 meeting as revised. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Traczyk, Sacks, Gates, O'Connor, Barber, Felton, and Spatz

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Consent Agenda

Traczyk moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the consent agenda as presented in the Board packet. Roll call vote.

2.2.1 Bill Lists and Related Reports

2.3.1 Personnel Action as presented

Ayes: Traczyk, Gates, Sacks, Spatz, Felton, O'Connor, and Barber

Nays: None

Motion passed.

2.3.2 Approval Estimate of Property Tax Levy and Set Levy Hearing Date

Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the estimated 2011 levy as presented at the October 25, 2011 meeting and as delineated on the attached Certificate of Levy. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Traczyk, Sacks, Gates, Felton, O'Connor, Barber, and Spatz

Nays: None

Motion passed.

2.4.1 Appointment of C.L.A.I.M.

President Barber explained that this item should be a topic report and will be discussed later in the agenda.

2.4.2 Approval of Summer 2012 Capital Projects

Traczyk moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the identified Capital Projects for summer 2012 as delineated in the memorandum to the superintendent dated October 25, 2011, and as reviewed and discussed by the Board of Education at its October 25, 2011 meeting, thus authorizing its architects to prepare the necessary bid documents associated with this work. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Traczyk, Felton, Gates, Sacks, O'Connor, Barber, and Spatz

Nays: None

Motion passed.

2.4.3 Approval of Irving School Solar Panels

Spatz moved, seconded by Traczyk, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the installation of a solar panel at Irving School, borne from the Irving School PTO's receipt of an Illinois Clean Energy Foundation Grant of \$8,000, accept the remaining donation for such work from the Irving School PTO in the amount of \$1,995 and authorize a structural engineering study, at a cost not to exceed \$1,650, as reviewed and discussed by the Board of Education at its October 25, 2011 meeting and as outlined in the attached documentation. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Spatz, Traczyk, Gates, Sacks, O'Connor, Felton, and Barber

Nays: None

Motion passed.

2.4.4 Accept Donation at Holmes School

Gates moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the donation of \$10,000 to Holmes School from Mary Jo Schuler and the Good Heart Work Smart Foundation. A request was made to know what this money was intended for. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, O'Connor, Sacks, Traczyk, Felton, Barber, and Spatz

Nays: None

Motion passed.

2.4.5 Accept Donation at Whittier School

Traczyk moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the donation of miscellaneous office furniture and electronic faucet heads from Northwestern Memorial Hospital. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Traczyk, Felton, Gates, Sacks, O'Connor, Barber, and Spatz

Nays: None

Motion passed.

2.4.6 Approval of Field Trip

Gates moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve an out of state field trip request for the fifth graders at Whittier Elementary School. Roll call vote.

President Barber explained that Board approval for out of state and overnight trips is a new procedure that the district will be following.

Ayes: Gates, Felton, Sacks, Traczyk, O'Connor, Barber, and Spatz

Nays: None

Motion passed.

TOPIC REPORTS**School Improvement Plan Update**

Felicia Starks Turner reported that all school improvement teams met at West40 last week. Sample plans were reviewed and the teams learned how to write a strong school improvement plan. The teams will be writing the plans in the next few weeks, and changes and refinements will be made to ensure that they will be easy to understand and realistic. Holmes, Brooks and Julian are required to submit plans this year. Mann and Hatch are looking at ways to target their lowest performing sub-group. The plans will be monitored by ISBE and West40. Additionally, West40 will visit the schools periodically to review the progress of the plans. The deadline for completion is Friday, November 18 at noon. The plans will be sent to the Board on Wednesday, November 23.

Revised Vision

Member Sacks shared four vision choices. After discussion the Board agreed on the following statement.

Oak Park Elementary School District 97 will be nationally recognized for preparing students to pursue college and career opportunities through purposeful and respectful learning experiences.

The Board will vote to accept this vision statement during its meeting on November 29.

Data Goal – Next Steps

Member O'Connor shared a document proposing the creation of an administrative data group. The proposal was discussed and revisions were recommended. Member O'Connor will revise the document and forward to the Board prior to the next meeting where this topic will be reconsidered.

Community Digital Inclusion

It was reported that the Council Of Governments (COG) is encouraging digital inclusion. The draft mission for this initiative was included in the Board packet. It was recommended that if the Board is in agreement, the initiative should be accepted as a COG initiative supported by the district. Members were asked to send their questions and concerns to Dr. Roberts.

C.L.A.I.M.

President Barber updated everyone on the status of this committee. Members Gates and O'Connor will resend the documents for review and request that the Board vote on this committee on November 29.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Roberts reported that administration is receiving some pushback from staff on the teacher Web pages. A survey is being done to accumulate data on the use of these pages.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT (Continued)

He reported that the Promises made/kept page of the Web site will be ready soon.

Dr. Roberts reported that the administrators are working on a program to develop leaders at all levels.

He reported that the standby generator bid will be on the November 29 agenda for approval.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/BOARD CONCERNS

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BOARD CONCERNS

It was reported that there is a huge demand for enrichment in Oak Park. The Center for Talent and Development requested to be a satellite location.

Member Gates attended the annual ED-RED dinner.

Member Spatz attended the Early Childhood Conference. He sent written materials to the Board via e-mail.

It was noted that the Race To The Top notification should be given in December.

At the last FORC meeting, discussion took place on policy 6100 – Finance. The committee will pass recommendations on to the policy committee.

It was noted that the BRAVO production of School House Rock was excellent.

The next Data First Workshop will be held on January 21.

The revised committee assignments were distributed.

President Barber and Member Traczyk will meet with the Oak Park Civic Committee tomorrow.

It was noted that the November 29 meeting has a very full schedule as a study session on facilities has been included on the agenda.

President Barber spoke to the Wellness Committee and the PTOs about the renewal of the school lunch waiver. Interest was expressed in knowing what kinds of meals were served and earnings made from food fundraisers.

BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

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TO PUBLIC
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None

ADJOURNMENT

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There being no further business to conduct, President Barber declared the meeting adjourned at 11:05 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, November 29, 2011, beginning at 7 p.m. in the Lincoln School Auditorium located at 1111 S. Grove Avenue, Oak Park, Illinois.

Board President

Board Secretary