



# Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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## **NON-BINDING REFERENDUM RESOLUTION**

**March 15, 2016**

**WHEREAS**, District 97 sized its 2011 operating referendum with the expectation and knowledge that it would likely need to seek another referendum during the timeframe of 2017 to 2019; and,

**WHEREAS**, District 97 has carefully managed its expenditures to be lower than its referendum projections on both an absolute and per student basis; and,

**WHEREAS**, District 97's enrollment has already exceeded its projections from 2011 by 225 students; and,

**WHEREAS**, District 97's projections for the 2017-18 school year are currently estimated to exceed its previously anticipated enrollment by more than 300 students; and,

**WHEREAS**, the proration of state funding the past several years has cost District 97 millions of dollars and threatened its ability to continue meeting the academic, social and emotional needs of its nearly 6,000 students; and,

**WHEREAS**, a lower than expected average for the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) has resulted in District 97, which is a tax-capped district, being unable to access more than \$1 million in property taxes that were projected for the current year back in 2011; and,

**WHEREAS**, the projections that were presented to the Board of Education during its meeting on February 23, 2016 show that District 97's fund balance is estimated to be below the 25% level at the end of fiscal year 2017, and is anticipated to be in the negative during the 2018-19 school year; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education through careful study and consideration, has determined that achieving a multiple-year balanced budget through cuts and cost efficiencies would still not be enough to support District 97's mission, vision and goals for its schools and students given the uncertainty and instability of the state's immediate and long-term financial future.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Education that District 97 intends to run a referendum on April 4, 2017.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that District 97 will perform a thorough review of its projection assumptions, options for cost savings and opportunities for non-property tax revenue prior to January 2017, which is when it is scheduled to finalize the size and type of referendum it will seek.

ADOPTED this 15<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2016.

James Gate, Board President

Sheryl Marinier, Board Secretary