

**Official Minutes of the  
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,  
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois  
Meeting December 17, 2013**

President Spatz called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

Present: Spatz, Gates, Sacks, Felton, O'Connor, and Brisben, Traczyk (6:43 p.m.)  
Absent: None  
Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Al Roberts, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Therese O'Neill, Director of Policy, Planning and Communications Chris Jasculca, Director of Special Education Mike Padavic, Director of HR Steve Cummins and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

Sacks moved, seconded by Brisben, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 6:36 p.m. to discuss (Collective Negotiations, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2), Student Discipline, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9)). Roll call vote.

Ayes: Sacks, Brisben, O'Connor, Felton, Gates, and Spatz  
Nays: None  
Absent: Traczyk  
Motion passed.

**OPEN SESSION**

OPEN SESSION

Sacks moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education move into open session at 6:59 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:01 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING** – 2013 Tax Levy

PUBLIC HEARING

Therese O'Neill came to the table and reported on the procedures followed to date regarding the 2013 Tax Levy. Members of the public were invited to speak on this topic and nobody expressed interest in speaking.

**SPECIAL REPORTS**

SPECIAL  
REPORTS

**OAK PARK RIVER FOREST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION – SUCCESS FOR ALL YOUTH**  
Alejandra Ibanez and David Pope came to the table. They noted that the foundation is one of only 48 community foundations and community trusts operating in the state of Illinois. It provides a central resource for donors, professional financial advisors, student scholarships and nonprofits organizations serving Oak Park and River Forest.

Ibanez reported that the purpose of the Communityworks Partnership is to provide a coordinated, systems-based approach toward the achievement of community aspirations. The initiative began in 2008 with the identification of three priority aspirations: Environmental Sustainability, Success of All Youth, and the Community Leadership Program.

She reported that the STRIVE Together initiative is in over 100 municipalities and in other countries, and focuses on cradle to career infrastructures. In the areas of Success of All Youth (SAY), considerable effort has gone into the creation of the Continuum of Learning (COL). The foundation is drawing upon this effort as it moves into the next phase in partnership with the STRIVE Together Network.

## OAK PARK RIVER FOREST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION – SUCCESS FOR ALL YOUTH STRIVE (Continued)

Ibanez reported that STRIVE has grown out of an initiative in Cincinnati to improve student outcomes by moving from individual action to collective impact. The results have been very positive and have attracted national foundation funding and adoption by many other cities. The STRIVE framework considers student outcomes broadly and recognizes the inherent connections between academic achievement and social/emotional development. She reported that the STRIVE framework relies on four key themes; shared community vision; evidence based decision making; collaborative action, and investment and sustainability. The programs approach relies on a determination of priorities that is entirely locally driven, and provides a framework to help bring the entire community together in support of these priorities. The STRIVE framework provides tools and support through each phase of the plan and implementation development all geared toward meaningful outcome-oriented actions. She noted that many STRIVE partners around the country have achieved considerable impact through their successful collaboration with community partners. Pope noted that each city identifies the major priorities for them and STRIVE supports that goal. STRIVE encourages all the entities in the community to come together to educate the children.

It was noted that STRIVE challenges the community to create a data team that focuses on partnerships and the sharing of data. The foundation has entered into a six month contract that will flush out the missed objectives and identify the key players. The community is a national partner and communicating with people across the nation. Dr. Roberts noted that ECRA fits into this plan very well, using predicted analytics, along with high expectation and what is needed to achieve those expectations.

Board comments included interest in the partnership of the three school districts and interest in seeing the shared community vision identified. Interest was expressed in a timeframe for the program seeing how STRIVE will turn into interventions. It was noted that the Board's Data Dashboard and Benchmark committee will be asked to evaluate some of the data and evaluate interventions.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Rick Boultinghouse, an Oak Park resident, suggested that the Board review the proposed minutes from the December 3, 2013 Board meeting and consider including a notation that the Board tabled the decision on air conditioning in the schools.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

ACTION ITEMS

#### **2.1.1 Approval of Minutes from the November 19, 2013 meeting**

Gates moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the November 19, 2013 meeting.

Ayes: Gates, Sacks, Traczyk, Felton, O'Connor, Spatz, and Brisben  
Nays: None  
Motion passed.

#### **2.1.2 Approval of Minutes from the November 20, 2013 Joint Board meeting**

O'Connor moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the November 20, 2013 joint Board meeting.

Ayes: O'Connor, Felton, Traczyk, Sacks, Gates, Spatz, and Brisben  
Nays: None  
Motion passed.

#### **2.1.3 Approval of Minutes from the December 3, 2013 Special meeting**

Felton moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the December 3, 2013 special meeting. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to table the approval of these minutes. Two changes were noted and the public comments were considered.

## **2.2.0 Approval of Consent Agenda**

Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the consent agenda as presented to the Board.

2.2.1 Bill List

2.2.2 Personnel

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

## **2.3.1 Approval of the Park District Intergovernmental Agreement**

Gates moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Park District of Oak Park and Oak Park Elementary School District 97 for the shared use of facilities and cooperative planning.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

## **2.3.2 Adoption of 2013 Tax Levy**

Sacks moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the attached Certificate of Levy and associated resolutions providing for adoption of the 2013 levy.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

## **2.3.3 Uphold/Rescind Suspension Appeal 20131125**

Gates moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, uphold the suspension of student 20131125.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE TOPICS**

ADMINISTRATIVE  
TOPICS

### **BROOKS OUT-OF-STATE FIELD TRIP REQUEST**

Dr. Roberts reported that the Brooks Music department is requesting permission for a field trip to the Music Festival in St. Louis and tour of St. Louis while they are there. This item will return to the Board on January 14, 2014. It was noted that this event is held every other year and the Julian Music department attended a similar event in Cleveland, Ohio. Interest was expressed in the use of chaperones and the policy that addresses chaperones. It was noted that guidelines are in place, and the number of chaperones needed will depend on the way the rooms are organized.

DONATION – WHITTIER PTO

Dr. Roberts reported that the Whittier PTO is requesting approval of a donation to Whittier School for exterior enhancements such as benches and landscaping. They anticipate that the cost of the improvements will be in excess of \$5,000. This item will return to the Board for action on January 14, 2014.

## **BOARD COMMITTEE/WORK GROUP REPORTS**

### **POLICY REVIEW UPDATE**

Member Sacks led a discussion on the draft Board Responsibilities, Procedures and Protocols document. Wording around public comment and other agenda item were discussed. Discussion took place on where to place public comment within the meeting agendas. It was agreed to leave public comment where it is and add a bullet within the protocol to reflect that the public comment could be moved up by the Board if the length and number of the special reports is excessive. Additional comments and recommendations were made.

### **Policies – First Reading**

The Board reviewed and revised the following policies;

- 3:60 – Administrative Responsibility of the Building
- 4:100 – Insurance Management
- 5:50 – Drug – Alcohol-Free Workplace; Tobacco Prohibition
- 5:90 – Abused and Neglected Child Reporting
- 5:100 – Staff Development Program
- 5:120 – Ethics and Conduct
- 5:200 – Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal
- 6:60 – Curriculum Content
- 6:250 – Community Research Persons and Volunteers
- 7:185 – Teen Dating Violence Prohibited
- 7:300 – Extracurricular Athletics
- 8:30 – Visitors and Conduct on School Property

Chris Jasculca came to the table. He noted that some of the changes do not need to be voted on by the Board, but are shared during the meeting for transparency. Changes to the policies were shared and discussed. These policies will return to the Board for second reading and action on January 14, 2014. It was noted that the Police Department will be supplying the schools with signs to be posted at all entrances regarding concealed carry. Jasculca noted that working with PRESS is making the process of modifying policies much easier.

### **FINANCIAL UPDATE (FORC)**

Member Traczyk reported that the DSEB bonding policy was discussed during the last FORC committee meeting. The committee determined that FORC would draft a policy to be shared with the policy committee and later shared with the Board. The committee will meet again on January 15, 2014 and there was discussion about adding a few additional meetings. Member Traczyk will forward a draft of an investment policy to the Policy committee for review. Member Traczyk reported that Tina Smith resigned from the committee and the FORC chair requested that an announcement be posted advertising for a new member. It was noted that CLAIM also needs an additional member.

### **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE (CLAIM)**

Vice President Gates noted that the results of the delegate assembly has been posted in the Board packet. He noted that the Board was in alignment with all questions except for one regarding common core which was defeated.

### **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE (CLAIM) (Continued)**

Vice President Gates and Greg Smith were acknowledged for taking the lead on the presentation at the joint conference. It was noted that although the attendance was low, the information was superior. It was suggested that the district consider a presentation at the next joint conference on how to form a committee, as many in attendance do not use the community the way that District 97 does. It was noted that prior to 2008, the district did not have any standing committees. In 2011 the Board was recognized as an Illinois State Board of excellence for their efforts and in 2012 earned the Governance award.

It was also noted that CLAIM is trying to draft some legislative language to support data sharing.

#### SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION UPDATE

Member O'Connor shared an overview of four superintendent performance recognition options. After discussion, option one was identified as the option of choice. Member O'Connor noted that the next step will be to identify the growth measures and determine a maximum amount of compensation. Discussion on this topic will continue on January 14, 2014.

It was noted that the new scoring devices should be available for discussion on January 28, 2014.

#### MADISON STREET PROPERTIES UPDATE

It was noted that revisions were made to the PowerPoint presented from December 3, 2013 and it will be added to the Web site.

The draft statement to the Village board regarding the possibility of a civic campus was reviewed and discussion. With a hope of being collaborative with the Village, the Board agreed to wait until they get a response from the Village before they determine whether to keep/take off this option for consideration. President Spatz was recognized for the time and effort he has put into this task.

A summary of the Villages three TIF options was shared and reviewed. These options will be shared with the Council of Governments on January 8, 2014. The pros and cons of each option were identified. It was noted that consideration needs to be given to the possibility of the warehouse fitting into the public works facility.

#### CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PLAN UPDATE

Dr. Roberts recommended that the district consider making ADA improvements to Whittier School to make it fully accessible. He explained that Whittier would be the best investment, especially since the building will be closed this summer for furniture replacement and the improvements could be done at that time. Member Brisben shared the scoring for these Cap-Ex activities and they were reviewed.

Dr. Roberts noted that his last recommendation on temperature control at the schools was to phase in air condition by starting with the third floor classrooms. He reminded the Board that temperature control is not only air conditioning, but keeping the classroom temperature controlled in the winter as well. He reported that only 16 percent of the classrooms have sensors. Those rooms have been monitored for the three hottest days in September and he reported that 17 of the 35 classrooms reached a temperature of 85 degrees or higher. Of the 17 classrooms, 12 were on the third floor and five were on the first floor. The side of the building that the classrooms are located on did not seem to make a difference. He would like to develop and implement a plan that permits a trial test and studies the temperature control year round, and use that study for future recommendations. He suggested a pilot to air conditions half the third floor classrooms and teachers share the room on hot days. If the proposed units are as advertised, and control the temperature year round, then this study would give the district the data needed to explain to the community why additional units would be a sound investment.

#### CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PLAN UPDATE (Continued)

President Spatz noted that the Whittier ADA would be considered an enhancement, but as legislature changes, that could change. He questioned that in five years if ADA improvements might become a life safety issue. Dr. Roberts noted that the need to make the improvements at Whittier is strategic, as the only ADA building in the district is currently over capacity.

Discussion took place about the Cap-Ex scoring tool and the ability to identify items as strategic initiatives instead of enhancements. Brisben expressed concern that the scoring on these two items did not get a chance to go through the full process. He suggested completing the process and returning to the Board on January 14, 2014 with a recommendation. O'Neill indicated that a decision would need to be made this evening, and direction given to the architects for summer projects.

After discussion, it was agreed that 16 classrooms would be considered, and the Board agreed to move forward with the bid process. This item will return to the Board on January 14, 2014, and a protocol for dealing with excessively hot school days will be presented to the Board in February. It was noted that the TIF payout would fund the ADA enhancements at Whittier.

Board concern was shared on the equitable choice of classrooms and choosing rooms that make the test a truly data driven assessment.

O'Neill reported that one of the additional summer projects is to update the middle school landscaping. She noted that a new plan has been received and will be shared with the Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC) on January 21, 2014. It will be brought to the Board on January 28, 2014 for action. The importance of sharing the plans with the school community was also expressed. O'Neill noted that the funding for this project is in the O&M budget for this year.

#### AD HOC DASHBOARD/BENCHMARK COMMITTEE UPDATE

It was reported that this committee will be meeting tomorrow evening. An update will be shared during the January 14, 2014 meeting.

#### **CONCLUDING ITEMS**

CONCLUDING  
ITEMS

##### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Roberts shared the timeline for the calendar committee. He noted that the District 200 calendar has already been approved. The committee will take into consideration both the calendars for District 200 and District 90.

It was reported that insurance broker interviews will be conducted after the holiday.

Dr. Roberts reported that the Whittier principal search will begin after the holiday.

#### BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Member Felton will be attending the Irving and Holmes PTO meetings in January, and President Spatz will be attending the January Lincoln PTO meeting. It was suggested that the PTO Council be asked if there are specific meetings where the PTOs would like to have a Board member in attendance.

Positive feedback was received regarding the new report cards.

Interest was expressed in knowing if rigor is being increased in the classrooms. The Board was encouraged to consider using the 5essentials free survey again this year.

#### BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS (Continued)

It was noted that other Illinois districts are piloting PARCC and it was suggested that District 97 consider a pilot program as well.

Member Brisben attended an ED-RED meeting.

Members Brisben and Gates met with Chris Jasculca and wrote the first draft of the Board Web site content. A mockup will be sent to the Board for review. Starting in January, the Board will have a very clear way of sharing what it is about with the community.

#### **BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

#### **PREVIEW AGENDA FOR THE JANUARY 14, 2014 MEETING**

The January 14, 2014 draft agenda was reviewed and revisions were suggested.

#### **BOARD 2013-14 TIMELINE**

The Board timeline was reviewed and revisions were suggested.

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Sacks moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 10:44 p.m. to discuss (Collective Negotiations, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)). Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

OPEN SESSION

#### **OPEN SESSION**

Traczyk moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education move into open session at 10:58 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Spatz declared the meeting adjourned at 10:58 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, January 14, 2014 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Administration building located at 970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois.

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Board President

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Board Secretary