

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Cook County, Oak Park, Illinois
January 12, 2010**

President Traczyk called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Gates, Spatz, Clouser, Reddy, Harton (6:37 p.m.), and Traczyk
Absent: Barber
Also Present: Superintendent Constance R. Collins, Director of Human Resources Trish Carlson, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations Therese O'Neill, Communications Coordinator Chris Jasculca, Director of Special Education Mike Padavic, Technology Specialist Cao Mac, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

Executive Session

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Ayes: Gates, Clouser, Spatz, Reddy, and Traczyk
Nays: None
Absent: Barber, and Harton (6:37 p.m.)
Motion passed.

Open Session

OPEN SESSION

Gates moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education move into open session at 7 p.m. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Reddy, Spatz, Harton, Clouser, and Traczyk
Nays: None
Absent: Barber
Motion passed.

1.1.0 Approval of Minutes of December 15, 2009

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 15, 2009

Harton moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the December 15, 2009 meeting with revisions.

Member Spatz clarified a statement in the section of the minutes related to the strategic plan. He said that during teacher negotiations the Board discussed meeting with the staff in the spring to talk about how the school day relates to the strategic plan.

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Harton, Gates, Spatz, Clouser, Reddy, and Traczyk
Nays: None
Absent: Barber
Motion passed.

Public Comment

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Action Items**4.1.1 Approval of Consent Agenda**

President Traczyk read the items on the consent agenda. Clouser moved, seconded by Gates, that the following items be approved on the consent agenda.

- 4.1.1 Bill Lists and Related Reports
- 4.2.1 Personnel Action as presented

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Clouser, Gates, Harton, Spatz, Reddy, and Traczyk
 Nays: None
 Absent: Barber
 Motion passed.

4.1.2 Resolution providing for the issue of \$2,900,000 General Obligation Limited School Bonds, Series 2010, to increase the District's working cash fund.

Clouser moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education of Oak Park approve the formal resolution providing for the issue of \$2,900,000 General Obligation Limited School Bonds, Series 2010 of School District Number 97, Cook County, Illinois, and for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest of said bonds.

Therese O'Neill and Liz Hennessy from William Blair and Company shared a pricing report of the Series 2010 Bonds.

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Clouser, Reddy, Gates, Harton, Spatz, and Traczyk
 Nays: None
 Absent: Barber
 Motion passed.

4.3.1 Approval of Landscaping Bid

Gates moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education, District 97, award a contract to McAdam's Landscaping for January 1, 2010 through June 30, 2010 in the total amount of \$17,200 and then for the next two fiscal years (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011 and July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012) for \$44,000 respectively as delineated in memorandums to the Board dated December 15, 2009 and January 12, 2010.

O'Neill reported that she spoke to Norm Lane regarding the bidding process. Lane reported that the bids were open while all six vendors were present and no concerns regarding the process were expressed.

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Reddy, Harton, Clouser, Spatz, and Traczyk
 Nays: None
 Absent: Barber
 Motion passed.

4.4.1 Adoption of Policies

Clouser moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, adopt the following policies.

Policy 1520.01 – New Principal Mentoring
Policy 2413 – Health Education
Policy 2414 – Sex and Family Life Education
Policy 3430.01 – Family and Medical Leave of Absence for Professional Staff
Policy 4430.01 – Family and Medical Leave of Absence for Classified Staff
Policy 5121.01 – Transfer and School Choice Option
Policy 5540 – The Schools and Governmental Agencies
Policy 5540.01 – Interrogation of Students
Policy 6423 – Credit Card Usage
Policy 8330 – Student Records
Policy 8420 – Emergency Evacuation of Schools

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Clouser, Gates, Reddy, Spatz, Harton, and Traczyk

Nays: None

Absent: Barber

Motion passed.

4.4.2 Approval of Operational Technology Plan

Harton moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the five-year Operational Technology Plan, cost estimates and timeline as presented at its December 15, 2009 meeting.

Member Clouser shared that he would prefer to approve the technology proposal as a complete plan. He will look forward to hearing the technology report in the near future.

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Harton, Reddy, Gates, Spatz, and Traczyk

Nays: Clouser

Absent: Barber

Motion passed.

District Activity

IRVING PLAYGROUND REPORT

DISTRICT ACTIVITY

Principal John Hodge and Jassen Strokosch, along with Sue Tresselt, Tom Bassett-Dilley, Reshma Desai, Michael Elsen, Claudette Bravo, and student Ian Bird updated the Board on the progress of the Irving Playground Renovation Committee.

Fifth grade student Ian Bird read his essay outlining the need for the renovations, suggesting artificial turf or grass opposed to asphalt, and equipment that will be appealing to all grade levels.

Strokosch reminded the Board of the original renovation plans and the committee's mission. He reported that the staff, parents and Irving community have been surveyed regarding the upgrades. Participatory workshops and public forums have been held to narrow down the options to one specific plan. From these meetings, the group has been divided into four subcommittees-outreach, development, curriculum and design and planning.

The goal of the outreach committee is to raise awareness among parents, staff, the Irving neighborhood, and the larger Oak Park community by: creating awareness of the project among invested groups, reaching out to groups to identify potential partners, keeping groups informed via updates, Web, media, networks, reporting milestones, generating and managing lists for contacts, and soliciting volunteers for various efforts.

IRVING PLAYGROUND REPORT – (Continued)

The goal of the development committee is to raise the funds necessary to implement the project by developing and overseeing grant writing strategies, identifying key needs and opportunities for private funding, cultivating relationships with potential philanthropic and business partners, and working with outreach to plan fundraising events.

The goal of the curriculum committee is to create and support opportunities for education within the project by identifying and supporting ways to involve students in the project planning process, supporting the development team when responding to curriculum based grants, and facilitating the Irving staff involvement in design planning for outdoor teaching opportunities.

The goal of the design and planning committee is to ensure that the final site plan effectively reflects the goals of the project by researching, reviewing and documenting design criteria, overseeing identified design phases and processes, communicating with stakeholders during the site design process, and coordinating the outside professional services necessary for project completion.

Strokosch reported that the timetable for the projects consists of issuing the RFP for site and landscaping design development in early 2010, site plan finalization in spring 2010, beginning construction during summer 2010 and conducting fundraising throughout the year. Although concern was expressed over the aggressive timeline, the Board was assured that a phasing plan for the most efficient way to reach the end result will be created, and part of the process will be to break the overall plan into smaller projects that can be completed individually as funds allow.

Financial Report **BUDGET AUTHORITY RESOLUTION**

FINANCIAL REPORT

O'Neill explained that the Board will need to vote to begin the budget planning process during the January 26 meeting.

Board of Education Priorities **EVALUATION OF BOARD GOALS**

BOARD OF
EDUCATION
PRIORITIES

President Traczyk led the Board through a review of their 2009-2010 goals. Discussion took place regarding the meeting agendas and time allocated for each agenda item. It was the consensus of those present that consideration needs to be given during the meeting when an item goes over the time allocated, as it may be beneficial to continue the discussion opposed to returning to the topic during a future meeting.

It was noted that the superintendent's evaluation is on schedule, those involved in the TIF carve out discussions are actively communicating, and a special meeting for the referendum has been scheduled. It was also noted that the Board needs to schedule a time to discuss academic achievement, committee structure, and supporting charges. President Traczyk noted that the Board priorities are currently to review the meeting agenda format, to consider a communication committee, and committee structure. It was suggested that the Board review the goals again in April.

BOARD MEETING MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL

Member Reddy reported that she distributed the revised document prior to the Board meeting and had received comments from the majority of the Board members. Additional comments were shared at the table. Reddy will make the recommended changes with some assistance from President Traczyk.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS DISCUSSION

The Board reviewed three committee alternatives, the Inquiry Network for Factual Outreach (INFO), Legislative Advocacy (LAC), and the Communications Committee. After a detailed discussion, the Board agreed that Jennifer Reddy, Jim Gates and Chris Jasculca will meet together, and on March 23 will make a recommendation to the Board on the best way to proceed regarding the need for these committees. It was suggested that the District needs to receive and discern good information, build relationships, and participate in effective outreach. It was also suggested that outreach needs to be broader than the District 97 boundaries.

Superintendent's Report

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

This year District 97 will acknowledge more than 35 retirees at the retirement dinner. In previous years, the remaining cost after revenue from ticket payments was evenly divided between the District and the OPTA. Due to the exceptionally large number of retirees this year, the OPTA has respectfully requested that the District pick up the remaining cost after a \$2,000 contribution by the OPTA. This request is for this year only; next year, the process will revert to the even division as in previous years.

A meeting took place last Thursday with Tom Barwin, Deputy Chief Leidy, Therese O'Neill, Trish Carlson, and Peter Traczyk regarding the crossing guards and school resource officers. Dr. Collins met with Therese and Trish this morning to strategize next steps and implementation. Further discussion will occur with the Village.

The superintendents of Districts 90, 97 and 200 are working to convene a meeting in mid-March of the three district board presidents and superintendents to develop a common goal.

The Race to the Top application was returned on time. Principals did not share feedback on this proposal. Dr. Collins explained that the next steps will take place in April when the state will announce if it will receive the funding.

The band program at Brooks received more than \$900 in percussion equipment and supplies from Donorschoose.org, a non-for-profit organization that helps teachers with funding for their curriculum and special projects. This donation, as well as others, will be presented at the next Board meeting for your acceptance.

Registration dates have been set for incoming kindergartners and new families. Evening times have been added this year. The dates/times are:

February 24	1 p.m.-8 p.m.	May 5	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
February 25	9 a.m.-4 p.m.	June 29	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
April 6	9 a.m.-4 p.m.	July 28	1 p.m. – 8 p.m.
April 7	1 p.m.-8 p.m.	July 29	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
May 4	1 p.m.-8 p.m.	After June 29	- by appointment with Sue Saliny

The cabinet has reviewed and updated the District's organizational chart. The chart will be posted on the District's Web site as soon as possible. This document was distributed to the Board members during the meeting.

Dr. Collins received questions from a Board member regarding security cameras that will require extensive research on the part of administrators. She is seeking input from the Board on how to proceed. The Board acknowledged that the first reading of the camera policy is scheduled for January 26. It was suggested that Dr. Collins respond at that time.

Board Concerns / Announcements

It was suggested that the District might consider participating in the Invest in Innovation grant. Member Spatz will forward the Internet link on this topic to the board members. Dr. Collins will meet with Dr. Anderson and determine which District administrator should be tracking this opportunity.

The status of the data sharing with Districts 200 and 90 was questioned. It was agreed that this will be a topic of discussion at an upcoming meeting between the three board presidents. It was suggested that District 97 could consider working toward this goal in a way that does not require input from District 200. President Traczyk will communicate with the District 90 president on ways the districts may work on the joint goal if District 200 is unable to supply data.

President Traczyk and member Barber were acknowledged for volunteering to judge the Vex Robotics competition. Member Gates will serve as the master of ceremony. Member Spatz showed interest in volunteering and will check his availability.

The timing related to the collection of public input in regards to video cameras was discussed. Concern was expressed that if public opinion is expressed after a policy is introduced, it could imply that the opinion collection is redundant. Discussion also took place regarding the reading of the policy. It was decided that the Board will seek public opinion after the first reading of the policy, and the final reading and adoption will not take place until public opinion has been considered. It was suggested that the media could be helpful in expressing the Board's interest in gathering public comment. It was suggested that a current timeline for completion of this project be shared along with the invitation to comment.

A conflict with the February 16 special Board meeting date was identified. It was agreed to change the meeting date to February 18.

President Traczyk received an invitation for the Board to become members of a village-wide committee. The committee will have representation from a majority of the village entities. It was suggested that Peter Traczyk and Peter Barber serve on this committee with Jim Gates as a backup.

President Traczyk will update the Board on the TIF progress during the next executive session.

A special executive session meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19 at 7:30 p.m.

There being no further business to conduct, President Traczyk declared the meeting adjourned at 10:38 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be on Tuesday January 26, 2010 beginning at 7 p.m. at Beye School, located at 230 N. Cuyler.

Board President

Board Secretary