



Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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DISTRICT 97 BOARD MEMBER LIAISON REPORT

This report was created and submitted by board members who serve as liaisons to board committees, administrative committees or community organizations. It is a brief summary of the committee or organization's most recent meeting. It does not serve as or represent official minutes of that meeting.

Name of the committee/organization: Oak Park Education Foundation

Date of the meeting: 09/27/17

Names of the District 97 board liaison: Jim O'Connor

Names of the District 97 administrative representatives (if applicable): Amy Warke and John Hodge

Key Information from Meeting to know for our Administrators and Board: OPEF is interested in learning when the district will decide its plans for summer school / launch. OPEF staff is also interested in setting the home for BASE Camp for the next summer. If available, Irving is currently the most desired location.

Brief summary/key outcomes of the meeting: A balanced 2017-18 budget was approved, the previous fiscal year ended with a small surplus, the sustainability of the BASE Camp scholarship fund was discussed, and the meeting had 100% attendance.

Executive Director's Report: Tracy said we learned a lot of lessons from much expanded summer programming, which will be explored in detail during the October OPEF board meeting. Tracy explained that OPEF is interested in early collaboration with D97 regarding the summer of 2018 if there is continued interest from D97. By the end of this week, there will be an independent evaluation report presented to OPEF on the summer programming. There will be both quantitative and qualitative (open-ended responses and focus groups interviews) components of the research. The early indications of the report have many positive aspects. OPEF will be sharing these Summer Launch results with D97 administrators during the presentation of all D97 programming at the second October board meeting; OPEF will be available to answer questions.

The Brooks mural, which reflected the work of BASE Campers, D97 staff, and community contributions, was one of the summer highlights. OPEF also hopes to create a mural at Julian. Tracy talked about fundraising and how her team is planning for end of year fundraising.

Tracy is interested in making their programming more uniform between the two middle schools. She would like to have one of the OPEF board members consider how to optimize programming and how to make it more uniform between the middle schools.

She also shared a high interest in keeping the summer scholarship in place after the current grant is spent. She also shared the success from a recent fundraiser at the home of a major supporter and that this fundraiser could be an annual event devoted to expanding access to BASE Camp scholarships.

Steve Miller, the outgoing Treasurer, explained that the OPEF has ~\$357k on hand. Some of the revenue highlights include: Staszak Gala set records and BASE camp enrollment and funding increased. Sassetti and Co. will be performing the audit and preparing the 990 tax returns. The board adopted the 2018 budget.

Tracy announced that OPEF recently received a \$5k matching grant from a VEX Robotics sponsor. They also are planning to expand the number of students who will access the Spoken Word programming during residencies and clubs. Tracy also explained that they have an organizational focus on offering enough scholarships so that the demographics of OPEF's summer enrollment match D97's enrollment for low-income families. The group discussed their strong interest in expanding scholarships for students in need. The group discussed what sort of fund balance they should keep.

Mark your calendars!

- OPEF Open House is on Saturday, November 4th from 10-12pm at Julian
- Battle of the Bots: March 3rd
- The Staszak Gala has been set for March 17th at Columbus Park. Please let me or Tracy know if you know anyone who would want to help in any way.

They are looking for one additional board member who is a teacher or social worker. They may need several new board members at the end of this academic year, with expertise in marketing, finance or event planning.

John Hodge mentioned that the school improvement plans across the district are closely aligned to the district's vision.

The group discussed when science is scheduled and how much flexibility there is around scheduling guest scientists in the schools.