

**Official Minutes of the  
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,  
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois  
October 26, 2010**

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

Present: Barber, Clouser, Reddy, Gates, Harton (6:50 p.m.), Spatz and Traczyk  
Absent: None  
Also Present: Superintendent Al Roberts, Human Resources Director Trish Carlson, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations Therese O'Neill, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Kevin Anderson, Director of Special Services Mike Padavic, Communications Coordinator Chris Jasculca, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Gates moved, seconded by Barber, that the Board of Education, District 97, move into Executive Session. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Barber, Reddy, Clouser, Harton, Spatz, and Traczyk  
Nays: None  
Absent: None  
Also Present: Therese O'Neill, Trish Carlson and Dr. Roberts  
Motion passed.

OPEN SESSION

**OPEN SESSION**

Gates moved, seconded by Harton, that the Board of Education, District 97, move into Open Session at 7:06 p.m. Roll call vote.

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

PUBLIC HEARING

**Public Comment -**

Linda Francis, Lincoln parent, shared her concern regarding the transportation needs within the district. She suggested that the district reconsider the busing policy and take into consideration the needs of the families regarding before and after school day care. She also requested that the district ensure that decisions are fact based.

APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES OF  
OCTOBER 12, 2010

**3.1.1 Approval of Minutes of October 12, 2010**

Harton moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the October 12, 2010 meeting as revised. Roll call vote.

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

**Consent Agenda -**

President Traczyk read the items on the consent agenda. Clouser moved, seconded by Reddy, that the following items be approved on the consent agenda. Roll call vote.

3.2.1 Bill Lists and Related Reports

3.3.1 Personnel Action as presented are revised

Information regarding the annual contribution to the Early Childhood Collaboration was requested. Carolyn Newberry-Schwartz responded by highlighting statistics supporting the need for early childhood development.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

**2.4.1 Resolution Appointing Legal Counsel in Connection with Tax Rate Objections with Proceedings Before State of Illinois**

Gates moved, seconded by Barber, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the formal attached resolution of the Board of Education authorizing the intervention in the 2005 and 2006 Tax Rate Objection proceedings as reviewed and discussed at its October 12, 2010 meeting. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

**2.4.2 Approval of Capital Projects**

Clouser moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the identified capital projects for summer 2011 as delineated on the attached list and as reviewed and discussed by the Board of Education at its October 12, 2010 meeting, and authorizing its architects to prepare the necessary bid documents associated with this work. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

**2.4.3 Approval of Dell Lease for Technology Purchases**

Harton moved, seconded by Barber, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the Dell Financial Services Lease proposal for an annual payment of \$157,823.20 for a period of 36 months to cover the total cost of leasing the following technology equipment in the amount of \$502,461.40.

Vice President Barber explained that legal counsel recommended the Board take a specific vote for these items outside of the technology plan. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

**Topic Review****REFERENDUM PLANNING UPDATE – DISCUSSION ON REFERENDUM TYPES**

Chris Jasculca and Therese O’Neill came to the table. Jasculca submitted a report titled “Trend from Community Survey Regarding the Referendum as of October 26, 2010.” He shared the current survey data and statistics. He reported that the link for the survey will be disseminated through several village entities, and will remain available for one month. Final results of the survey will be shared with the Board on November 13.

Dr. Roberts met with several community members who were pleased that the survey comments are available for community review. Dr. Roberts noted that this is a testament to the communications director and the Board. Jasculca reported that many of the people who are currently not in support of a referendum were voicing a negative opinion because they felt they needed additional information. He also shared that staff feedback has been received and will be reviewed by Dr. Roberts.

President Traczyk, Member Spatz and Therese O’Neill will try to determine the dollar amount the district should request in a referendum and share their recommendation during the November 2 work session.

Dr. Roberts shared that the salary structure concerns him, noting that the district needs to be in the market value. He reported that the district will continue to look for efficiencies and make sure they spend each dollar in a way that is good for the district. It was also reported that many school districts consider going for a referendum every three or four years.

A poll of the Board showed interest in a working cash and/or sustainable referendum. It was agreed that the November 2 workshop should focus on reviewing the projections going out to 2019 and how the tax payers will be affected. The November 13 meeting will feature a review of the survey results and discussion of the enhanced vision. Jasculca reported that the November 18 forum will be taped and posted on the Web.

**PRESENT ESTIMATE OF PROPERTY TAX LEVY AND SET LEVY HEARING DATE**

O’Neill reported that, in accordance with the district’s legal counsel, the presentation of the levy will take place on November 30. It was suggested that a footnote be added to clarify the separate line item for special education. O’Neill shared that the levy can be amended in April if the referendum passes.

SUPERINTENDENT’S  
REPORT**Superintendent’s Report**

Dr. Roberts lead the Board through a personality identification process called “True Colors.” He explained that identifying the individual member’s personality traits would assist in building support between the members and help with communication.

BOARD CONCERNS

**Board Concerns**

A FAC meeting is scheduled for tomorrow evening. Jasculca advertised the opening for a new committee member and has heard from three of four interested individuals.

The Board was reminded that the joint conference will be held on November 19-21. The District 97 Board will be presenting on Saturday, November 20 from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Members Gates, Harton, Spatz, Reddy and Barber will be in attendance.

It was recommended that the district agree to the following split of costs for the youth interventionist, District 97 – 11 percent, District 200 – 14 percent, and the Township – 24 percent.

**Board Concerns** (Continued)

Jasculca shared sample logos with the Board and asked them to send their suggestions to him by next Monday. The new logo will be displayed during the next meeting.

The Gifted / Talented presentation will be given on Monday, November 1.

It was suggested that the format of the discipline report be reviewed. Dr. Roberts will revise the format prior to the next discipline report due in January, 2011.

Members Reddy and Gates will meet with Dr. Roberts regarding the Communication Committee. They requested suggestions and ideas from the Board members to take with them to the meeting.

The video "Race to Nowhere" is being rescreened in River Forest on November 7.

It was reported that Steve Miller would not be available to share the five-year projections on November 16. It was suggested that the Board review the data in his absence.

**Board Response to Public Comment**

BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Roberts will respond to the public comment.

**Adjournment**

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Traczyk declared the meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be on Tuesday, November 16, 2010, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Administration building located at 970 Madison Street.

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Board President

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Board Secretary