

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97
260 Madison Street, Oak Park
January 5, 2022 Special Meeting**

This meeting was held in-person and virtually using Zoom during the time of the Coronavirus pandemic. One or more of the board members met in-person and everyone else were virtual.

President Kim called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

Present: Kim, Moore, Ross Dribin, Hurd Johnson, Kearney, Kinhal, Spurlock

ROLL CALL

Absent: None

Also Present: Constance Collins and Max McGee Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates, Lonya Boose
Board Secretary

OPEN SESSION

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Kim motioned that the board move into Open Session at 3:06 p.m. The motion was seconded by Moore. All members of the Board were in agreement. The Board reconvened in Open Session at 6:39 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

PUBLIC
COMMENT

D97 Board Members,

I respectfully request that this Board please call an emergency meeting to discuss the District's approach to keeping schools open for in-person learning during our current period of uncontrolled community COVID transmission. Excluding afterschool programs, the District recorded seven classroom outbreaks during this school year's fall session. Today the District reopened with two schools insufficiently staffed to support in-person learning.

This is a different situation than the fall. Classrooms need additional support.

Will the District provide a continuous supply of high quality masks for students and staff? Will the District provide more frequent testing and send rapid tests home to families? Will the District add air purifiers to more classrooms, begin consistently monitoring classroom CO2 levels, or even let teachers open windows?

At the start of the school year, D97 had over \$4 million in federal grants intended to, and I quote the District, "*provide vital support to reopen our schools safely, to maximize in person instruction time and to address the impact of COVID-19 on our students, educators and families.*" Experts predicted that cases would rise over winter. D97 has had ample time and federal funds to prepare. How will you augment your response to meet the current situation?

I trust that many one-on-one conversations are happening behind the scenes. However, in the interest of transparency and in support of communal effort, there must be a public discussion. Will you please call an emergency meeting this week to publicly assess the different schools' situations and describe how the District will make decisions in response to current circumstances?

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service.

Regards,

Alicia Chastain
(Parent to two D97 students)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ross Dribin moved, seconded by Kinhal that the Board move into executive session for the purpose of Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees or Legal Counsel for the District, Collective Negotiations, 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1)(2), at 3:09 p.m.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

Ayes: Kim, Hurd Johnson, Ross Dribin, Moore, Kearney, Spurlock, Kinhal
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed

ADJOURNMENT

Hurd Johnson moved, seconded by Kearney that the meeting be adjourned. There being no further business to conduct, President Kim declared the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Board President

Board Secretary