

Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97
260 Madison Street, Oak Park
September 12, 2023 Regular Meeting

This meeting was held in-person and virtually using Livestream. Board members met in person along with Administration.

President Kearney called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

Present: Burns, Kearney, Kim, Hurd Johnson, Ross Dribin

Absent: Moore, Spurlock

Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Ushma Shah, Assistant Superintendents Dr. Luis De Leon & Patrick Robinson, Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations Dr. Sheila Johnson, Chief Learning Innovation Officer Dr. Eboney Lofton, Chief Legal and Equity Officer Luis Rodriguez, Chief Technology Officer Michael Arensdorff, Senior Director of Communications Amanda Siegfried, Senior Director of Data Analytics Anna Colaner, and Lonya Boose Board Secretary.

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Kim moved, seconded by Ross Dribin that the Board move into executive session for the purpose of Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees, Collective Negotiating, Security Procedures, School Building Safety and Security, Other Matters Relating to Individual Students, Litigation, Audit & Internal Controls. 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1)(2)(8)(10)(11)(29) at 6:10 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

OPEN SESSION

President Kearney motioned that the Board move into Open Session at 7:02 p.m. All present members of the Board were in agreement. The Board convened in Open Session at 7:06 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

5. BUDGET HEARING | SY 2023-2024 Budget Adoption

OPENING MOTION: Kim moved, seconded by Ross Dribin that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 moves in to Open Session with a Public Hearing on the District's FY 24 Budget.

BUDGET HEARING

Ayes: Burns, Kearney, Kim, Hurd Johnson, Ross Dribin

Nays: None

Absent: Moore, Spurlock

Motion passed.

No Public Comment present or noted for the budget hearing

CLOSING MOTION: Kim moved, seconded by Ross Dribin that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 moves to Close the Public Hearing on the District’s FY 24 Budget.

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

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

(Complete recording is available online)

PUBLIC
COMMENT

Laura Stamp

I received the Fulbright award and an opportunity to go to Vietnam. I am here tonight to share my proposal, “From the Corn Fields to Rice Fields: Cultural Attitudes and Climate Change Education in Vietnam”. Similar to the US, Vietnam is diverse and one of the top 5-countries to deal with climate change. Climate change is difficult to track and often met with anxiety because people don’t always see its effects on individuals. I want to take this experience and come back to write a K-8 climate curriculum.

I have been involved in sustainability with the Village. I want to partner with the Village on student friendly language. I have been in contact with Oak Park and River Forest High School as well. I am excited to teach my students, and model lifelong learning, and show them curiosity as it relates to sustainability. I want to thank the Board of Education for supporting this opportunity.

After Public Comment, Board President Remarks:

Board President Kearney, this maps well with conversations we have been having around sustainability. We are happy to see where you land in the process.

#D97 JOY
UPDATE

7. #D97 JOY | Back to School and New Hire Highlights

District 97 celebrates new hires and also welcomes students back to school for SY2023-2024. We are excited to see the smiles and excitement as staff welcomed students and families back to each of our 10-campuses. Congratulations to the new staff joining us, and welcome back returning staff and families. Looking forward to a great school year!

*Celebration and recognition video available by viewing the livestream of the Board of Education meeting on the District 97 YouTube channel.

8. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE TO BOARD AND COMMUNITY

DISTRICT
UPDATE

Dr. Shah, Superintendent of schools and the Portrait design leads, Dr. Eboney Lofton and Amanda Siegfried shared an update on Fall 2023 community engagement planning for the Portrait of an Oak Park 8th Grade Graduate.

9. ACTION ITEMS

ACTION
ITEMS

9.1 Consent Agenda

Kim moved, seconded by Ross Dribin that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 moves to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

- 9.1.1 Approval of Minutes from the August 8, 2023 Board Meeting
- 9.1.2 Bill List
- 9.1.3 Personnel
- 9.1.4 Approval : Revised SY2023-2024 Board Meeting Dates
- 9.1.5 Approval : Press Plus Issue 110 Policy Updates (8.8.23)
- 9.1.6 Approval : Irving Elementary Outdoor Education Field Trip
- 9.1.7 Approval : Out of State/Overnight Field Trip | Julian Middle School Music Program

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

9.2 Action

9.2.1 Mann PTO Donation (8.8.23) - Tabled

This motion is tabled for further review into process and policy around gifts and donations to the district.

Ayes: None
Nays: None
Absent: Moore, Spurlock
Motion Tabled.

9.2.2 Adoption of Final SY2023-2024 Budget (8.8.23)

Kim moved, seconded by Hurd Johnson that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97, moves to adopt the FY 2024 budget as presented to the Board.

Ayes: Burns, Kearney, Kim, Hurd Johnson, Ross Dribin
Nays: None
Absent: Moore, Spurlock
Motion Passed.

9.2.3 Authorization to Approve Termination of Non-Certificated Employee

Kim moved, seconded by Burns that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 moves to approve the Administration’s recommendation to terminate the employment of non-Certificated employee Russell Williams.

Ayes: Burns, Kearney, Kim, Hurd Johnson, Ross Dribin
Nays: None
Absent: Moore, Spurlock
Motion Passed.

9.2.4 Authorization to Approve Revisions to Policy 2:150 Committees

Kim moved, seconded by Ross Dribin that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 approve the Administration’s recommendation to amend Board Policy 2.150 (Committees) to remove the Committee for Legislative Action, Invention and Monitoring (CLAIM) reference, as that standing committee has been abolished.

Ayes: Burns, Kearney, Kim, Hurd Johnson, Ross Dribin
Nays: None
Absent: Moore, Spurlock
Motion Passed.

10. BOARD ASSIGNMENTS

BOARD
ASSIGNMENTS

- Board President Kearney shared with each board member their new committee assignments.
- Board Vice President Ross Dribin, attended IGOV this past Saturday. Currently, they are working on having a Mental Health Forum. It is a pertinent issue and I am excited to see this event. Portrait of an Oak Park 8th Grade Graduate did come up while I was attending this meeting. People are very excited and ready to engage.

11. CONCLUDING ITEMS

11.1 Board Remarks

- President Kearney notes, we have been meeting around the potential of a sustainability policy with Seven Generations Ahead. We will want to craft a policy that sets higher level goals and process around a sustainability plan. Laura Stamp needs to be part of this process. More information coming soon.

13. ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

All Five present members of the Board were in agreement that the meeting be adjourned. There being no further business to conduct, President Kearney declared the meeting adjourned by voice vote at 8:40 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary