

**Official Minutes of the  
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,  
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois  
Meeting November 13, 2012**

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

Present: Gates, Felton, Sacks, Traczyk, Spatz, and O'Connor  
Absent: Barber  
Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Al Roberts, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Therese O'Neill, Assistant Superintendent of HR and General Counsel Joanne Schochat, Director of Policy, Planning and Communications Chris Jasculca, Director of Special Education Mike Padavic, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 6:30 p.m. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Traczyk, Sacks, Gates, O'Connor, Felton, and Spatz  
Nays: None  
Absent: Barber  
Motion passed.

**OPEN SESSION**

OPEN SESSION

Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education move into open session at 6:49 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

The meeting was reconvened at 7 p.m. with all Board members in attendance.

**SPECIAL REPORTS**

SPECIAL  
REPORTS

**BOARD RECOGNITION**

Dr. Roberts announced that November 15, 2012 is School Board Member Day. He noted that leadership and civic responsibility has been the hallmark of this Board for many years. The administration took a moment to recognize the Board members and gifts of appreciation were distributed. Dr. Roberts noted that the board room plaques will be updated to recognize Master Board members and will include the names of current President Peter Barber, Vice President Bob Spatz, member Jim Gates, and past presidents Michelle Harton and Carolyn Newberry Schwartz.

**SUMMER SCHOOL REPORT**

Director of Curriculum Teaching and Learning Lisa Schwartz, Data Administrator Harla Hutchinson and Site Supervisors Kari Smith, Chemaine Carr and Faith Hill came to the table. They updated the Board on the programs that took place during the summer, 2012. Schwartz explained the Prep for Success model which ran at the end of the summer, noting that the reteach/preteach method was used. She noted that the amount of student/teacher contact time for the program was increased from 25 to 80 hours, and the curriculum design was shared.

It was noted that the Prep for Success program was different in many ways. Teachers were selected through an application process with a focus on their literacy instruction experience. Student data was shared with the teachers in advance so the student's needs could be addressed

## SUMMER SCHOOL REPORT (Continued)

through the curriculum and individualized instruction. To ensure that curriculum was used correctly at home, parent communications were sent out regularly and the Site Supervisors were available to assist the parents in navigating the program.

Schwartz reported that all District 97 schools were represented by students in this program.

Hutchinson reported on DIBELS data comparing the Prep for Success students to students who were invited to participate in the program but did not attend. The comparison indicated that the Prep for Success students showed growth at the beginning of the 2012-13 school year where the other students started the school year with no growth over the summer.

Mike Padavic reported that 111 students were in the ESY programs. Two percent of the students did not maintain their goals due to attendance issues. He recommended that the ESY program run simultaneously with Prep for Success next summer.

Other summer program options offered during the summer, 2012 were School Daze (155 students this year, 190 students in 2011), Music Camp (43 students this year and 42 students last year) and Middle School Math Enrichment (This year ran 10 classes with 97 students; last year only ran one class. This program may expand to sixth graders next year. 85 students were in the bump up classes and 76 placed higher when returning to school in the fall).

The team recommended keeping the Prep for Success model and keeping the class sizes at 10-15 students. Early notification, consistent criteria for the program, additional curriculum resources, and providing student data to teachers in advance were recommended to ensure success of the program.

Schwartz reported that partnerships are being considered as a way to offer a wider variety of classes and the ability to offer scholarship money. The team is looking for creative options with technology for students who may not qualify for the program but would benefit from enrichment. Dr. Roberts suggested that the summer programs for 2013 be shared with the Board in March, 2013, with invitations being sent out to parents in April, 2013.

Board comments included support for the summer programs. Interest was expressed in knowing if advanced programs other than math are being considered. Consideration to the high school summer schedule was suggested. It was noted that the Early Childhood Data Committee is working on data that will identify the kindergarten readiness of the incoming students and will be available this year or next year. It was recommended that winter MAP scores of the Prep for Success students be compared with their current data to see if the growth continued.

## SCHOOL SAFETY REPORT

Mike Padavic came to the table with school nurses Jamie Peterson-Strokosch, Angie Maquire, Maureen Powers, and Angie Rossi. The team shared a follow-up on the playground safety concerns raised during the 2010-11 school year. They reported on major/minor head injury data collected from August 24, 2012 through October 31, 2012. Minor head injuries were defined as injuries that resulted in swelling, and major head injuries were defined as requiring further medical evaluation by a healthcare provider. 106 minor injuries were reported district-wide, with 100 of those identified as minor and six as major. They noted that the middle school indicated that most injuries occurred in areas other than outdoors, in the gym or lunch room, and a majority of the injuries were kindergarteners who are just becoming accustomed to playing in large groups.

## SCHOOL SAFETY REPORT (Continued)

It was reported that the goal would be no injuries, but the team was satisfied with the low number of occurrences. They noted that it is too early to identify trends, and they will continue to analyze the data and will share an update with the Board later in the school year.

The nursing staff would like to promote safety and wellness throughout each building and implement any necessary measures/interventions in high traffic areas. In an effort to meet this goal, the district is providing safe playgrounds that offer constructive and organized play options that keep the children engaged and physically active. To maximize the use of the equipment and the safety of the children, the students will receive orientation on the playground equipment and taught the rules for safe play through PBIS.

Next steps include the continued collection of data with clearly defined terms; analysis will include the identification of patterns and trends both at the school and district level. Data will be used to identify and implement necessary interventions on a school/district basis. The indoor head injuries will be reviewed in more detail to identify location.

Peterson-Strokosch introduced the Peaceful Playground Program that has been implemented at Irving School. She reported that the program encourages organized play by supplying equipment (balls, jump ropes, etc.) to engage the children. She noted that this simple intervention has lowered incidents and injuries. She also reported that the lunch periods have been divided into three sections by grade so fewer children are on the playground at the same time.

The Board was reminded that a lot of changes are taking place within the children (growth spurts, etc.) that contribute to injuries. Offering organized play areas minimizes the interest in children to simply run around for lack of better things to do. Something as simple as painting the four-square on the playground and teaching the children options for safe play will attribute to safe play.

Board comments included interest in the organized play idea and teaching children how to play safely on the new playground equipment. Interest was also expressed in knowing if any of the documented injuries were of the same child. An interest in seeing a report on fractures was expressed. It was noted that many classroom behaviors improve after the children have had a chance to be outside for a while, and as school population's increase and children stay at school for lunch, considering a closed lunch with fewer students outside at one time may cause less injuries. It was noted that some of the schools are already following this format.

The team was asked to share an information only update in the spring.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

PUBLIC  
COMMENT

Dan Jordan, an Oak Park resident, reported that he is a 14-year resident of the community and has four children who were educated in District 97. He thanked the Board for their ongoing efforts on the Irving Schoolyard project. He noted that the project will impact the entire town. He shared that he has been an AYSO volunteer for 12 years, and is currently the assistant commissioner. He reported that the organization currently has 1,800 players in the fall, 700 in the spring, and they expect to see the membership growing. The organization currently has 54 U10 teams and 60 U8 teams. They have eight or nine fields to choose from for the U8 needs. The organization uses several school fields; they rent fields outside of town, and still have a shortage. He noted that building a U10 field on the Irving blacktop area is a great opportunity to address a need, and suggested that the AYSO might be willing to support the project financially if a U10 is the chosen option.

**ACTION ITEMS****4.1.2 Approval of Minutes of October 30, 2012**

Traczyk moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the revised minutes from the October 30, 2012 meeting. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Traczyk, Felton, Gates, Spatz, Sacks, and O'Connor  
 Nays: None  
 Absent: Barber  
 Motion passed.

**4.2.1 Approval of Consent Agenda**

President Barber read the items on the consent agenda. Sacks moved, seconded by Traczyk.

- 2.3.1 Bill Lists and Related Reports
- 2.2.1 Personnel Action as revised
- 2.4.6 Approval of Memorandum of Understanding – Veteran's Day

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Sacks, Traczyk, O'Connor, Spatz, Felton, and Gates  
 Nays: None  
 Absent: Barber  
 Motion passed.

**2.4.1 Approval of Annual Capital Projects**

Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the identified capital projects for summer 2013 as delineated in the memorandum to the superintendent, dated October 30, 2012, and as reviewed and discussed by the Board of Education at its October 30, 2012 meeting, thus authorizing its architects to prepare the necessary bid documents associated with this work. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Traczyk, Sacks, Gates, Felton, O'Connor, and Spatz  
 Nays: None  
 Absent: Barber  
 Motion passed.

**2.4.2 Approval of Estimate of Property Tax Levy**

O'Connor moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the estimated 2012 levy as presented at the October 30, 2012 meeting and as delineated on the attached Certificate of Levy and amended to include the hearing date of December 12, 2012. Roll call vote.

Ayes: O'Connor, Sacks, Traczyk, Gates, Spatz, and Felton  
 Nays: None  
 Absent: Barber  
 Motion passed.

**2.4.3 Approval of Superintendent's Evaluation Tool**

O'Connor moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the Superintendent's Evaluation Tool as prepared by the Board during prior meetings.

Member O'Connor was thanked for his efforts in creating this evaluation tool.

Roll call vote.

Ayes: O'Connor, Gates, Felton, Sacks, Traczyk, and Spatz

Nays: None

Absent: Barber

Motion passed.

#### **2.4.5 Approval of Intergovernmental Agreements with the Park District**

Felton moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the two Intergovernmental Agreements with the Park District of Oak Park specific to the irrigation system at Longfellow School for up to a \$19,000 reimbursement, and the provision of 20 trees at the Beye, Holmes and Longfellow schools as outlined in the memorandum to the superintendent dated November 13, 2012.

The Park District was acknowledged for their partnership and support of the school district

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Felton, Sacks, Gates, O'Connor, Traczyk, and Spatz

Nays: None

Absent: Barber

Motion passed.

#### **2.4.4 Approval of the C.L.A.I.M. Impact Statement**

Gates moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the C.L.A.I.M. Impact Statement as revised by the Board.

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Sacks, Felton, O'Connor, Traczyk, and Spatz

Nays: None

Absent: Barber

Motion passed.

### **TOPIC REPORTS**

#### **TOPIC REPORTS**

#### **JOINT FACILITY DISCUSSION**

Dr. Roberts reported that President Barber and Ms. Graves from the Park District did a great job presenting the plan and answering questions during the last community event, where traffic and parking was an ongoing concern. It was noted that parking would be a problem wherever an administrative facility is built. Moving District 97 and Park District together might actually make traffic issues easier for the Village. It was noted that, at this time, the School/Park Districts are only looking for permission to plan ahead and not permission to build.

It was noted that the District made a commitment to supply financial data to the project by December 1, 2012, but will need to delay that response by 30 days.

Although not directly related to this topic, it was noted that the Building and Grounds Department will be sharing a recommendation on air conditioning needs at the schools in the near future.

Board comments included agreement to host an additional forum after the financial data is received, and noting that each board will need to review the data and determine if they wish to continue pursuing options. They will take into consideration not only if the project is good for their organization, but for the good of the community as a whole; keeping in mind that the use of the TIF dollars impacts each group in a different way. It was noted that cost estimates need to be

## JOINT FACILITY DISCUSSION (Continued)

reconsidered due to the change in the size requirements. Appreciation was extended to the members of the Facility Advisory Committee (FAC) in attendance, and it was noted that the committee will be meeting on December 12 to review the facility option again.

## SCHOOLYARD DISCUSSION

Therese O'Neill came to the table. She addressed the playground needs at Hatch, Mann and Whittier schools. She reported that she and member Sacks have been attending meetings with the architects and the community members of the schools to address the needs at each of them. She noted a genuine gratitude by the community members for the rubberized surfaces, and shared final versions for the three playgrounds. O'Neill noted a willingness of the PTOs at each school to financially support amenities to each playground. She noted that Mann PTO is very interested in updating an entryway.

O'Neill reported that the proposal for each playground is below the \$250,000 allocated by the district, noting that the rubberized surfaces are an additional cost.

She noted that Whittier School has two playgrounds and in an effort to update both areas, some of the existing equipment will be put back into place after the renovation.

The alternates were described in detail and discussion took place on how the alternates will play out. The next steps for these three proposals will be for the Board to approve the bid documents at the next meeting.

O'Neill continued by discussing the Irving Schoolyard Project and submitting three options for consideration.

O'Neill shared a chart on alternate sizes for U10 fields, and noted that a 110 X 180 field would fit on the North end. Dr. Roberts reported that the Park District will concede to a 114 X 180 field.

After discussion, three options were identified for moving forward.

- Option 1 – A U8 field on the North end and using the existing playground area and parking lot.
- Option 2 – A U10 field on the North end and using the existing playground area and parking lot.
- Option 3 – A U10 field on the South end. Moving the playground to the West and using the existing playground area for parking.

Board comments included concern about foul balls hitting cars. Concern was also expressed about traffic when parents are dropping off children. It was noted that a backstop currently exists and is not included in the options. O'Neill will take this concern to the architects.

The lighting of the field was discussed. It was noted that the Park District is not interested in lighting the field. Concern was expressed that getting approval from the Township for lights may be a lengthy process. It was determined that lights will not be an option.

## DRAFT TIMELINE FOR BOARD GOAL REVIEW

The Measures of Success draft document was reviewed. It was noted that;

- Goal 3.1 was covered in discussion this evening.
- Goal 3.2 is moving forward with discussion during a Facilities Committee meeting scheduled on December 4, and will be reviewed by the Board on December 11.
- Goal 3.3 was discussed during the meeting this evening and a 60 minutes update will be scheduled on December 11.
- Goal 2.1 needs to be discussed on November 27. The list of report topics will be sent out. Board members were asked to send their options to member Felton. She will compile the list for discussion on November 27.
- Goal 1.3 was covered in the Staffing Report and should be considered completed.

It was recommended that the Board Goals Timeline be updated for every meeting and included in every Board packet.

### IASB Resolution

Member Gates shared an updated resolution list for consideration. After review by the Board members, five items were identified as too close to determine. The Board reviewed the five items and came to consensus on all.

Number 4 - PTEL and Number 15 – Priority Support were identified as possible items for the C.L.A.I.M. committee.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Roberts reported that report cards will go out on December 4, not November 30 as originally identified.

Dr. Roberts expressed appreciation to the many talented, caring and passionate parents in the community, noting that the district can make wiser decision in the long run because of their input and support.

During the December meeting, the technology team will report on where the district stands with meeting the referendum promises made/promises kept.

### BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Everyone was reminded that the Dr. James Heckman event is tomorrow at Unity Temple at 7 pm.

IM.P.A.C.T. is holding a drug and alcohol forum tomorrow as well.

Concern was expressed about the technology issues that affected the MAP testing. Dr. Roberts reported that the NWEA did not see the breakdowns as being a problem for the district. Principals will review the scores and identify any problems they see. It was noted that the district's bandwidth needs to be upgraded.

Members Felton and Gates announced that they will be running for reelection to the Board of Education.

Member Gates attended the Mann and Julian PTO meetings, where Interest was expressed in seeing the IB program continue to the high school. Concern was expressed about the IBs impact on staffing, and regarding the C.L.A.I.M. committee with the new democratic veto-proof supermajority that is clanging in the district, looking to stave off literally anything the democrats want to do with pensions and taxes. Member Gates also attended ED-RED.

SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT

BOARD CONCERNS /  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS (Continued)**

Member Spatz attended an Early Childhood conference last week and will send an e-mail to the Board members that will identify Web sites that might be of interest to them. He shared two publications, *Ready, Set, Respect!* and *Serving Preschool Children Through Title I* with Dr. Roberts. He attended a session on play, and suggested that the Policy committee investigate this concern. He noted that sometimes principals and teachers do not agree on the reasons for withholding recess.

It was noted that the common core standards adopted by 46 states did not take into consideration the nine month cut off for the start of kindergarten, as there is not a uniform policy regarding full-day kindergarten. It was noted that the district needs to look at how it reports progress.

It was reported that Seussical was performed at Julian Middle School and was excellent.

Member Sacks attended a Parenthesis event where member Felton received an award.

Community members were recognized for their attendance at the community forums. The importance of their attendance and voice on topics was expressed.

Member O'Connor attended the Lincoln PTO meeting. He noted their appreciation for member Felton's participation in the past and for the support of the Board. They recommended a district-wide platform for all PTOs in the district. It was also noted that Longfellow had strong ISAT results and everyone should be trying to figure out what they are doing there.

A session on growth models for principal/teacher program evaluation will be held on Friday at 8 a.m. during the joint conference.

Advance Illinois released a report card on Illinois public education that assesses how the state serves students from early education through postsecondary and examines how students progress through the entire educational system. Member O'Connor will send this report to the Board members.

The information only report in the Board packet on PTO events was questioned. O'Neill explained that the insurance company requested that the Board be made aware of all events in order to cover the events under the district's insurance. O'Neill will look into whether the officers are covered for errors/omissions.

### **BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, Vice President Spatz declared the meeting adjourned at 10:22 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, November 27, 2012 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