

**Official Minutes of the  
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,  
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois  
Meeting June 24, 2014**

President Spatz called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Spatz, Gates (5:37 p.m.), Felton, Brisben, O'Connor (6:25 p.m.), Sacks (7:00 p.m.) and Traczyk  
Absent: None  
Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Al Roberts, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Therese O'Neill, Director of Policy, Planning and Communications Chris Jасulca, Director of Special Education Mike Padavic, Director of HR Steve Cummins and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Traczyk moved, seconded by Brisben, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 5:30 p.m. to discuss (Student Discipline, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9), Purchase or Lease of Real Property 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5), Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific employees, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), Collective Negotiations 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)). Roll call vote.

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

OPEN SESSION

**OPEN SESSION**

Gates moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education move into open session at 6:57 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement. The meeting was reconvened at 7:02 p.m.

**Approval of Revised Personnel Action**

PERSONNEL ACTION

Felton, moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the Personnel Action as presented to the Board.

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

New hires in attendance were introduced.

**SPECIAL REPORTS**

SPECIAL REPORTS

**IB UPDATE**

Lisa Schwartz shared that the International Baccalaureate (IB) program is an engaging perspective on how the district approaches teaching and learning, that includes all students and is common to all subject areas. The IB Middle Years Program (MYP) is child-centered, integrates the subject areas, and allows students to participate actively in their learning process.

IB impacts learning by having teachers and student think about learning in a different way, with a strong focus on authentic learning experiences. The IB learner profile supports social/emotional

## IB UPDATE (Continued)

growth, develops the whole child, fosters reflection and inquiry, and promotes empathy and service action. The IB approach to learning explicitly teaches learning skills and habits of mind. Schwartz made it clear that IB is not a curriculum, but it is a fresh approach to the way teachers and students look at the curriculum. It contextualizes learning to make all learning experiences meaningful and explicit.

She noted that unit planning at the middle schools has created more consistency in student learning. IB promotes common language across subjects and grade levels for teachers, student and their families; and supports common planning tools for teachers. Schwartz noted that interdisciplinary plans are required by IB.

Schwartz explained that curriculum related service learning is also part of the IB experience, and will be required by all eighth graders. She noted that service learning with a focus on action helps to encourage ownership of the community in which we live, and provides a global view of cause and effect.

IB assessments are similar to the formative assessment framework, with consistent summative assessment tasks for all subjects, including non-core classes. Assessments are criterion-based summative assessments, and will include transparent grading practices for a stronger community understanding.

Schwartz shared an example of a typical student day highlighting IB experiences in each class. She shared an IB brochure that will be shared with the community. She noted that a fall information night will be offered to all community members, and the District 97 IB Website will be updated on a regular basis. The middle school curriculum nights will have an IB focus, and media for middle school events will focus on IB.

Board comments included interest in knowing how much of the time students interact with content, and how much time they focus on learner profiles, personal identity, global application, fairness, sustainability, and service action.

Schwartz noted that the next IB training sessions will be held in the Chicago area. It was recommended that several teachers take advantage of this opportunity, and that Board members participate if they are available.

Interest was expressed in hearing more about the following during an upcoming IB update.

- Hearing from classroom teachers about IB in their classrooms
- Sample IB lessons across the disciplines
- A visualization and explanation of a middle school report card in the IB era
- Clear examples of how students are interacting with grade level, challenging great fiction and non-fiction text: reading, analyzing, and responding in writing to essential questions
- Has the administration surveyed the staff regarding staff satisfaction with IB support, teacher proficiency to implement IB in the classroom, and what may have been “lost” in the furtherance of IB
- Survey data for teachers and students
- More concrete examples

IB UPDATE (Continued)

- Are we sharing unit plans using technology?
- Will the assessments created for IB meet the needs of PERA?

Dr. Roberts acknowledged Schwartz for her time, effort and support, noting that she will be leaving the district.

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY GATEWAY TO TECHNOLOGY (PLTW) UPDATE

Middle school teachers Tim Walsh, Beth Barton, Adrienne Court, and Brian Shannon came to the table. They explained that the Project Lead the Way Gateway to Technology initiative is designed to offer an engineering class to students in each of the middle school grade levels. They noted that the hands-on approach encourages and enables the students to enjoy the design process, develop knowledge, understanding and skills from different disciplines; and to design and create solutions to problems using the design cycle. The goal of the program is for students to walk away with an appreciation of the past, present and emerging design within cultural, political, social/historical and environmental context; as well as, develop respect for others viewpoints and appreciate alternative solutions to problems, act with integrity and honesty, take responsibility for their own actions, and develop effective working practices. It was noted that this initiative conforms to several IB goals.

This year, sixth graders were given the opportunity to experience the Design and Modeling class for one trimester. Next year, Vex Robotics will be offered to the seventh graders, and a third component will be offered to the eighth graders the following year.

Students, Kira Imowitz, Dan Lingen and Eva Berger-Wolf shared their experiences in Design and Modeling class. They noted that they learned that it is okay to make mistakes, and they explained how they are following up with what they learned by using Auto Desk software, and Java programming during the summer.

Board comments included noting that the Oak Park and River Forest High School also adopted the PLTW program. The need to celebrate, promote, and bring attention to this program was expressed. Interest was expressed in finding a way for these teachers to help their colleagues identify a way to encourage their students to embrace trial and error in other classes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

**ACTION ITEMS**

ACTION ITEMS

**2.2 Approval of Consent Agenda**

Traczyk moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the consent agenda as presented to the Board.

- 2.1.1 Bill List
- 2.1.3 Acceptance of Transfer Resolutions
- 2.1.4 Approval of CLIC Insurance Renewal
- 2.1.5 Acceptance of Donation from the Beye School PTO

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

**2.2.1 Approval of Brooks/Julian Landscaping Bids**

Gates, moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, award a contract to the Kenneth Company in the amount of \$242,911 for the landscape upgrade work at Brooks and Julian Middle Schools as outlined in the memorandum to the superintendent dated June 10, 2014.

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

**2.2.2 Approval of Elementary Math Materials**

Felton, moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the purchase of My Math elementary math materials for the 2014-15 school year at the cost of \$87,368.

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

Dr. Roberts noted that hard copy documents will be supplied for areas of the curriculum that are difficult to access online, and noted that the company is working to resolve this issue.

**2.2.3 Approval of Technology Fees**

Traczyk, moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the technology fees for the 2014-15 school year as presented to the Board during the June 10, 2014 board meeting.

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

**2.2.4 Action on Student Discipline 20142406A**

Felton, moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, to approve the following resolution regarding student 20142406A.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of OAK PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 97, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS ("BOARD" or "DISTRICT") conducted a hearing in closed session on June 24, 2014, in the matter of the discipline of Student **20142406A** ("STUDENT"), pursuant to Section 10-22.6 of the *School Code*; and

**WHEREAS**, on the basis of all testimony and evidence presented at said hearing, the BOARD has determined that STUDENT **20142406A** is guilty of gross misconduct and/or disobedience; and

**WHEREAS**, the BOARD has considered: (1) the egregiousness of the student's conduct; (2) the history or record of the student's past conduct; (3) the likelihood that the conduct will affect the delivery of educational services to other students; (4) the severity of the punishment; and (5) the interests of the student;

**WHEREAS**, the BOARD has determined that the 9-day out of school suspension of STUDENT **20142406A** should be upheld; and

**WHEREAS**, the BOARD has determined that STUDENT **20142406A** should be expelled from the DISTRICT for the 2014-2015 school year, and that said expulsion shall be held in abeyance for the 2014-2015 school year so long as STUDENT **20142406A** complies with all of the conditions set forth in the Student Behavior Contract attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** by the BOARD as follows:

**Section 1:** That the 9-day out of school suspension of STUDENT 20142406A is hereby upheld.

**Section 2:** That STUDENT 20142406A is expelled from the DISTRICT effective immediately and for the 2014-2015 school year and that the expulsion is held in abeyance for the 2014-2015 school year so long as STUDENT 20142406A successfully complies with the conditions listed in the Student Behavior Contract attached hereto as Exhibit 1. Failure to comply with the conditions in the Student Behavior Contract shall result in STUDENT'S 20142406A immediate expulsion and will go into effect without any further action by the BOARD.

**Section 3:** That the Superintendent or his designee shall send written notice to the parents of STUDENT informing them of the BOARD'S decision.

**Section 4:** That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

### 2.2.5 **Action on Student Discipline 20142406B**

Felton, moved, seconded by Traczyk, that the Board of Education, District 97, to approve the following resolution regarding student 20142406B.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of OAK PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 97, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS ("BOARD" or "DISTRICT") conducted a hearing in closed session on June 24, 2014, in the matter of the discipline of Student 20142406B ("STUDENT"), pursuant to Section 10-22.6 of the *School Code*; and

**WHEREAS**, on the basis of all testimony and evidence presented at said hearing, the BOARD has determined that STUDENT 20142406B is guilty of gross misconduct and/or disobedience; and

**WHEREAS**, the BOARD has considered: (1) the egregiousness of the student's conduct; (2) the history or record of the student's past conduct; (3) the likelihood that the conduct will affect the delivery of educational services to other students; (4) the severity of the punishment; and (5) the interests of the student;

**WHEREAS**, the BOARD has determined that the 8-day out of school suspension of STUDENT 20142406B should be upheld; and

**WHEREAS**, the BOARD has determined that STUDENT 20142406B should be expelled from the DISTRICT for the 2014-2015 school year, and that said expulsion shall be held in abeyance for the 2014-2015 school year so long as STUDENT 20142406B complies with all of the conditions set forth in the Student Behavior Contract attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** by the BOARD as follows:

**Section 1:** That the 8-day out of school suspension of STUDENT 20142406B is hereby upheld.

**Section 2:** That STUDENT 20142406B is expelled from the DISTRICT effective immediately and for the 2014-2015 school year and that the expulsion is held in abeyance for the 2014-2015 school year so long as STUDENT 20142406B successfully complies with the conditions listed in the Student Behavior Contract attached hereto as Exhibit 1. Failure to comply with the conditions in the Student Behavior Contract shall result in STUDENT'S 20142406B immediate expulsion and will go into effect without any further action by the BOARD.

**Section 3:** That the Superintendent or his designee shall send written notice to the parents of STUDENT informing them of the BOARD'S decision.

**Section 4:** That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption.

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

## **COMMITTEE / WORK GROUP REPORTS**

### **POLICY**

The Policy Committee met recently and is in the process of compiling answers to questions from the Board. This committee plans on bring a few policies to the Board for first reading during the July 22, 2014 Board meeting.

### **FACILITIES UPDATE (FAC)**

Board member Brisben attended the recent FAC meeting and presented the Cap-Ex model to the committee. The committee discussed the possibility of software that might help with this task.

Dina Bell was elected as the new Chairperson. Jamil Bou-Saab was acknowledged for his six years of service to the FAC committee. It was noted that he will remain on the committee for one more year to assist with transition.

It was noted that the correct temperature gauges have been received and will be installed in the schools this week.

### **FINANCIAL UPDATE (FORC)**

The FORC Committee will be meeting next week. President Spatz has identified two new members who will be invited to the upcoming meeting.

### **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE (C.L.A.I.M.)**

Representative Danny K. Davis is interested in finding people to join his Education Council. More details about this opportunity will be shared at a later date.

The CLAIM Committee will be meeting on August 21, 2014. The Legislator Forum sub-committee will be meeting before the August meeting date.

The two IASB resolutions were submitted on behalf of the district.

It was noted that ED-RED will have a new executive director.

### **SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION UPDATE**

This topic will be discussed in executive session.

### **MADISION STREET PROPERTIES UPDATE**

This topic was discussed in executive session.

### **CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PLAN UPDATE**

Administration is working with FORC to identify data on the revenue side.

### **AD HOC DASHBOARD/BENCHMARK COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The Ad Hoc Dashboard/Benchmark committee met last week. The committee plans to have something ready to share with the Board during the second meeting in September.

### **IGOV UPDATE**

IGOV is scheduled to meet on July 12, 2014. Vice President Gates encouraged the Board members to share their feedback on the proposed changes to the committee. He expressed

## IGOV UPDATE (Continued)

confidence that the District 97 Board will be supportive of the alternative plans for this committee.

## BOARD SELF-EVALUATION UPDATE / GOALS TIMELINE

It was noted that significant time will be allocated to this topic on the July 22, 2014 agenda. A draft document was shared, and it was noted that additional information will be sent to the Board next week. Suggestions for outreach and recognition will be shared at the next meeting. It was agreed that the three topics of focus should be Board meeting efficiencies, outreach and goals.

## ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

### *Recertification of Hazardous Crossings*

Therese O'Neill came to the table. She explained that the recertification of the Hazardous Crossings is an annual approval. Once the Board takes action on this item, it will be sent to the State Board of Education and the State Transportation Department. O'Neill noted that the documents being presented for approval are the same as last year. The crossings will be reviewed during the 2014-15 school year, and possibly revised prior to approval next year. This item will return to the Board for action on July 22, 2014.

### *Presentation of Preliminary 2014-15 Budget*

O'Neill recapped the 2013-14 end of the year budget and presented the preliminary 2014-15 budget for consideration. She noted the timeline for budget approval as follows;

July 22, 2014 – Adoption of the tentative 2014-15 budget

August 19, 2014 - Update and continued discussion of 2014-15 budget

September 9, 2014 - Public hearing of 2014-15 budget

September 23, 2014 – Adoption of the 2014-15 budget and submission to Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)

Board comments included noting that the district has far more children to educate than it had when it created the expense reduction target. It was suggested that this information be added to the referendum commitment page of the Web site. Interest was expressed in knowing the percentage of the student increase.

## **CONCLUDING ITEMS**

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Roberts reported that he met with the administrators yesterday to plan for the August retreat. During that meeting, the team discussed expectations.

A team met with ECRA this morning. ECRA's data indicates that the district is making expected growth. Dr. Roberts noted that ECRA is working with about 1,000 school districts across the country, and many of the districts are moving toward the use of only PARCC testing to measure growth. A presentation will be given to the Board in September, 2014.

### **BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Board members were encouraged to attend the Brown Bag Luncheons offered by Advanced Illinois. Kate Walsh will speak on teacher preparation during the brown bag lunch on Friday.

A local real estate group is raising money for backpacks called backpacks4class. Member Felton will share additional information about this event with the Board.

Interest was expressed in seeing the enrollment numbers in the upper level math classes, and in the MSAN metrics.

CONCLUDING  
ITEMS

**BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS (Continued)**

Interest was expressed in supplying principals with 50 hours of professional development annually. A third party evaluator was recommended.

Interest was expressed in seeing staffing over the past three years, including the names of those who left the district from the middle schools.

It was reported that the IASB West Cook dinner meeting was held at the Julian Middle School yesterday. IASB will be hosting a fall dinner meeting on September 29, 2014, and a spring dinner meeting on March 30, 2014. Both meetings will offer a pre-dinner meeting for potential school board candidates.

**PREVIEW DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE JULY 22, 2014 BOARD MEETING**

The draft agenda for July 22, 2014 was reviewed.

**BOARD 2013-14 TIMELINE**

It was noted that this meeting concludes the timeline for the 2013-14 school year. Plans for the 2014-15 timeline will be made during the July 22, 2014 meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

Sacks moved, seconded by O’Connor, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 9:26 p.m. to discuss (Collective Negotiations, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)).

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

**OPEN SESSION**

OPEN SESSION

Gates moved, seconded by Traczyk, that the Board of Education move into open session at 11:00 p.m. All members of the Board currently in attendance were in agreement.

**ADJOURNMENT**

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Spatz declared the meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, July 22, 2014 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Administration building located at 970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois.

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Board President

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Board Secretary