

Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97
260 Madison Street, Oak Park
August 8, 2023 Regular Meeting

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

Vice President Ross Dribin called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Present: Moore, Ross Dribin, Kim, Burns, Hurd Johnson, Spurlock

Absent: Kearney

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, Interim Senior Director of Buildings & Grounds Marty McConahay, and Lonya Boose Board Secretary.

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Spurlock moved, seconded by Hurd Johnson that the Board move into executive session for the purpose of Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees, Collective Negotiating and Litigation.5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1)(2)(11) at 6:04 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Vice President Ross Dribin 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 7:12 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

*Please note we were experiencing technical difficulties for the first 10-minutes of the meeting.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

(Complete recording is available online)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jenna Leving Jacobson

Hi I am Jenna Leving Jacobson, I am volunteer for Mom's Demand Action. Now entering the third school year that I am standing before you to request action on a secure gun storage policy and the school's vital role in this request. Secure storage is also key in helping child suicide rates when guns and ammunition is stored properly. We want to make sure everyone in Oak Park is keeping firearms stored with ammunition separate and locked. It was suggested that we circulate a petition, we have gathered signatures at meetings and events where we educate people on safe gun storage. If your inaction is based on fear, the signatures should make you feel safe in your support. I am sad, frustrated and disappointed that another school year has past before we have been provided information on this request. I have advocated with the local police department, village and in working with those agencies, I can see that this is an important topic. If this is also important to you, at your next meeting you will introduce new policy on safe gun storage.

When new superintendent Dr. Shah came on board, she provided me with 90 minutes to discuss this topic. A comprehensive solution means we all need to use all of the tools. Regardless what this board decides to do, we will continue to spread the word on safe gun storage. We are at the weekly farmers markets her in town providing the community with information, and will continue in our efforts to do so.

Thank you

Candace Ward

I am here because I want answers on what to expect this school year with my kids. I received a no-trespassing notice, because of my highly inappropriate language with Amy. I feel Amy gets away with anything. My daughter was put into a suspension room without my knowledge. I met Ms. Ushma, who was unaware of my situation prior to her coming to the district from my understanding. I was working with the interim superintendents. I have an open case with Amy who has been a no-show at trial dates.

Back in September I was arrested because they say I did not give notice of being at the school. Amy has not shown up, Felicia has not shown up, I understand this is not a case with District 97, but no one has shown up I have gone to each of the court dates. I am asking for answers, someone to hear me out and be supportive. Someone to follow up with me besides Felicia, so I can maybe sit down with Ms. Ushma to get answers for this school year I would appreciate it, thank you.

Yvette Stringer

I am Candace's mom. I am here to get some clarity regarding my grandkids. This has not been properly resolved, I was also removed from the school during an event. I was approached in my grandkid's classroom and told I needed to leave. I was told by a police officer, no one related to Candace should be in the school. I always attend these open houses with my grandkids. I was never told I needed permission to be in the school. At this point I want to know how we can be supported this upcoming school year with my grandkids, from me the grandmother. Thank you.

6. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE TO BOARD AND COMMUNITY

DISTRICT
UPDATE

Dr. Shah, Superintendent of schools will provide an update to the board and community on district celebrations and priorities. Dr. Shah will present, CIXCLE Forward: District 97 Year II Forecast. This presentation is available by viewing the August 8, 2023 Livestream or board packet materials.

7. ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEMS

7.1 Consent Agenda

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

- 7.1.1 Approval of Minutes from the June 13, 2023 Board Meeting
- 7.1.2 Approval of Minutes from the June 28, 2023 Special Board Meeting
- 7.1.3 Bill List
- 7.1.4 Personnel
- 7.1.5 Approval : West 40 SY2023-2024 Remote ALOP Program IGA
- 7.1.6 Approval : Curriculum Donation and Recycle Request
- 7.1.7 Approval : Washington DC Overnight Field Trip
- 7.1.8 Approval : Authorization to Publish Budget Hearing Notice

- 7.1.9 Approval : SY2023-2024 Board Meeting Dates
- 7.1.10 Approval : District 97 Consolidated District Plan
- 7.1.11 Approval : Irving PTO Field Trip Donation
- 7.1.12 Approval : Mann PTO Field Trip Donation

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

7.2 Action

7.2.1 Approval: OPTAA Collective Bargaining Agreement 2023-2027

Spurlock moved, seconded by Kim that the Board of Education, of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 moves to approve the terms of a new four-year collective bargaining agreement with the Oak Park Teachers' Assistants Association.

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

Comment:

Thank you, Ty Smith, Mary Pat Eraci Sullivan and team for the collaborative effort during this bargain.

7.2.2 Approval: Mann PTO Donation Request

***This motion was tabled for further Q&A discussion at the September 12, 2023 Board of Education Meeting prior to being revisited for motion and action.**

Hurd Johnson moved, seconded by _____ that the That the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 moves to approve the PTO donation of funds for a swing donation in the amount of \$82,000 as presented to the Board on August 8, 2023.

Ayes: None
Nays: None
Absent: Kearney

Motion Tabled.

7.2.3 Approval: SELF Renewal (6.13.23)

Hurd Johnson moved, seconded by Spurlock that the Board of Education, of Oak Park Elementary School District 97, moves to renew its contract with the School Employees Loss Fund (SELF) for the 2023-2024 school year at a premium of \$332,004.

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

7.2.4 Approval: CLIC Renewal (6.13.23)

Kim moved, seconded by Burns that the Board of Education, of Oak Park Elementary School District 97, moves to renew its contract with the Collective Liability Insurance Cooperative (CLIC) for the 2022-2023 school year at a premium of \$382,111 as outlined in the memorandum to the superintendent dated June 13, 2023.

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

7.2.5 Approval: SY2023-2024 Contracts Over \$25,000 (6.13.23)

Teaching and Learning

Kim moved, seconded by Spurlock that the That the Board of Education, of Oak Park Elementary School District 97, moves to approve the Teaching and Learning Department’s recommendation for existing contracts that exceed \$25,000.

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

Student Services

Kim moved, seconded by Burns that the Board of Education, of Oak Park Elementary School District 97, moves to approve the Student Services Department’s recommendation for existing contracts that exceed \$25,000.

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

Technology

Hurd Johnson moved, seconded by Burns That the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97, moves to approve \$1,168,508.15 to be included in the District 97 2023-2024 Technology operational and technology plan budget to cover online license renewals and lease payments, as presented and discussed at the June 13, 2023 meeting.

Ayes: Kim, Ross Dribin, Moore, Hurd Johnson, Burns, Spurlock
Nays: None

Absent: Kearney
Motion passed.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

ADMINISTRATIVE
ITEMS

8.1 Presentation of 2023-2024 Tentative Budget

On August 8, 2023, Dr. Johnson and Financial Consultant Robert Grossi presented the tentative budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. The formal budget hearing and adoption of the budget will occur at the September 12, 2023 board meeting.

The tentative budget reflects estimated total revenues received by the district of \$125,180,000 and total expenditures of \$120,817,000. The proposed budget includes \$4.3 million in major capital expenses, the district is projected to incur an operating surplus of \$4.3 million. The projected \$46.5 million ending fund balance would result in approximately 4.9 months of operating reserves, which is within the district's 3–6-month fund balance policy. Please note that we may continue to modify the budget during these uncertain times and the final budget may change slightly.

The notice of public hearing will be published no later than August 11, 2023, and the budget will be on display on the same date of the publishing, which is at least 30 days prior to the September 12, 2023 meeting the board will hold the public hearing and approve the final budget on.

If you have any questions or need additional information, you can contact Dr. Shah and we will respond accordingly.

8.2 Press Plus Issue 110 Policy First Read (action 9.12.23)

Luis Rodriguez, Chief Legal and Equity Officer for the district provided the Board of Education with a presentation on Press Plus Policy Issue 110 proposed revisions. This information included overview of internal review process, and summary of substantial changes to policy language. The complete presentation can be found by viewing the livestream of the August 8, 2023 meeting, or by clicking into the presentation linked in the board packet. Policies within this issue will be brought to the board for action on September 12, 2023.

Presentation concluded with a note to the Board and Community.

Over the next few months, we anticipate a large number of recommended edits to policy language from IASB. However, any new mandates the district administration is required to adhere to will be acted on in our schools/buildings upon the effective date of new legal requirements while proposed language works its way into policy via the review process.

9. BOARD ASSIGNMENTS

- OPEF has expanded their programming, excited to see more program access
- IGOV meets this upcoming weekend

BOARD
ASSIGNMENTS

10. CONCLUDING ITEMS

10.1 Board Remarks

Board member Moore, I would like to have a conversation on the protocols of entering a building. What do you need to enter a building. Often times I approach a building, you don't know who I am, and I am let into the building. I think this is a huge problem. What policy and procedures do we have around entry.

Response: Dr. Shah notes, that Dr. Starks Turner is working on this body of work and we will be providing information and updates in the coming months.

11. ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

All Six present members of the Board were in agreement that the meeting be adjourned. There being no further business to conduct, Vice President Ross Dribin declared the meeting adjourned by voice vote at 9:47 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary