

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
October 12, 2010**

President Traczyk called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Present: Spatz, Clouser, Reddy, Gates, Harton (6:35 p.m.), Barber, and Traczyk
Absent: None
Also Present: Superintendent Al Roberts, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations
Therese O'Neill, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Kevin
Anderson, Director of Special Services Mike Padavic, Communications
Coordinator Chris Jasculca, Principals Tom Sindelar, Victoria Sharts, Jonathan
Ellwanger, Sheila Carter, Suzie Hackmiller, John Hodge, Catherine Hamilton,
Angela Dolezal, Nimisha Kumar, Carol Young, and Board Secretary Sheryl
Marinier

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

Executive Session

Gates moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education, District 97, move into Executive Session. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Reddy, Clouser, Spatz, Barber, and Traczyk
Nays: None
Absent at time of vote: Harton
Motion passed.

OPEN SESSION

Open Session

Barber moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, move into Open Session at 7:05 p.m. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Barber, Gates, Reddy, Harton, Spatz, Clouser, and Traczyk
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Special Reports -

ACCEPTANCE OF AUDIT

Therese O'Neill and Brian Guastella introduced additional audit reports and reported that the final documents revealed no findings. With approval by the Board this evening, the audits will be delivered on time.

OAK PARK EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Deb Abrahamson and Phil Hausken addressed the Board. Abrahamson shared that the Oak Park Education Foundation (OPEF) supplies special programs for the district, but are not funded by the district. Geared Up, Architecture Adventure, Vex Robotics, Art Start, and Global Village were introduced. It was reported that many of the programs are supported by volunteers, and several are offered to the students during the school day. The OPEF programs reached about 2,900 students last year. Abrahamson shared that students with special needs are included in the programs if they are scheduled in the regular classrooms during the program time. Additionally, Art Start and Geared Up are offered to the special education classrooms.

It was reported that the foundation is working to maintain strong ties with District 97 and the community. They are ensuring quality, innovativeness, accessibility and diversity of their programs. They are maintaining quality programs and fulfilling their mission despite tough financial times.

Future plans include expanding coverage, making improvements based on surveys and audits, and offering more summer programs. They will continually seek to expand their donor base and partnerships with area businesses. Marketing for the foundation includes a new OPEF Web site, social networking, engaging more parent volunteers and increasing the volunteer recognition.

Hausken asked for the district's continuing support by facilitating opportunities to further build their relationship with teachers and administrators.

PRINCIPALS' REPORT – SCHOOL SUCCESS PLAN

Dr. Roberts introduced the presentation by expressing the need to develop a deeper understanding of the testing results, analyzing the data and skillfully reacting to the findings. He suggested making this an ongoing dialog at the Board table, suggesting that the principals be invited back to the Board table on a regular basis. He commended Dr. Anderson and the principals for the program presented this evening.

The principals addressed the need for students to be successful in both behavioral and academic systems. They reported on the current district-wide assessments - Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) and Cognitive Ability Test (CogAT) sharing that principals and staff are very excited about the data that is being gathered. Additionally, the schools now have a data-rich problem solving team in each building. The team shared sample data with the Board and explained how it is used to identify each individual child's strengths and weaknesses.

The principals reported that future plans include continuing the successful efforts currently underway, maximizing effectiveness, efficiency, cross pollination, and laser-like focus. School RtI teams will continue to match the students with the right interventions. The spring training for the *Treasurers* reading program will include making the RtI connection apparent.

Dr. Roberts reported that strategies and tactics are important. As a profession we are capable of delivering winning strategies and preparing for the unexpected, but that's not enough. The team's intent is to challenge and raise the expectation for every student, create a respective nurturing student/teacher rapport, and make instruction more intentional.

Dr. Roberts suggested that the Board members submit their questions to the principals for response at a later date. It was agreed that a video of this presentation posted on the district Web site could be useful in helping the community understand the importance of testing and the data it supplies. Principals were reminded of the importance of announcing the community chats with their families and staff.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment – None

Action Items -

2.1.1 Approval of Minutes of September 28, 2010

ACTION ITEMS

Clouser moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the September 28, 2010 meeting as revised. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Clouser, Reddy, Barber, Harton, Spatz, Gates, and Traczyk

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

Consent Agenda -

President Traczyk read the items on the consent agenda. Harton moved, seconded by Reddy, that the following items be approved on the consent agenda.

2.2.1 Personnel Action as presented are revised

2.3.1 Bill Lists and Related Reports

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Harton, Reddy, Gates, Spatz, Clouser, Barber, and Traczyk

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

2.2.2 Employee Suspension

Gates moved, seconded by Clouser, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve a three-day suspension without pay for employee 1010. The suspension dates will be determined by the school principal. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Clouser, Barber, Reddy, Harton, Spatz, and Traczyk

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

2.2.3 Notice to Remedy

Gates moved, seconded by Clouser, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the Resolution Authorizing Issuance of a Notice of Remedial Warning as read at the table.

Whereas, the Board of Education of Oak Park School District No. 97, Cook County, Illinois, is empowered to manage the operation of the schools of the District, including management of its employees; and Whereas, the Board of Education has the authority to discipline and dismiss teachers pursuant to Section 10-20.5, 10-22.4 and 24-12 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/10-20.5, 5/10-22.4 and 5/24-12); and Whereas, the Board of Education has received and reviewed information and recommendations from its administrative staff regarding the unprofessional conduct of Jeannie Linss, a teacher contractual continued service; and Whereas, the Board of Education has concluded that such information and reports of unprofessional conduct indicate sufficient reason and cause for the teacher's dismissal from the teaching staff of this District if said unprofessional conduct is not corrected and remediated; Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Board of Education of Oak Park School District No. 97, Cook County, Illinois, as follows: Section 1: Jeannie Linss shall be issued a Remedial Warning for the reasons stated in the Notice attached hereto and incorporated in this Resolution as Exhibit 1. Section 2: That the President and Secretary of the Board of Education are hereby authorized and directed to send said Notice of Remedial Warning to Jeannie Linss by certified mail, return receipt requested. Section 3: That the Superintendent or his designee shall personally deliver a copy of the said Notice to Jeannie Linss and subsequently supervise her remediation efforts and observe and monitor her professional conduct. Section 4: That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Clouser, Harton, Reddy, Spatz, Barber, and Traczyk

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

2.3.2 Acceptance of Fiscal Year 2010 Audit

Reddy moved, seconded by Barber, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the Fiscal Year 2010 audit as prepared by its auditing firm, McGladry & Pullen and forward to ISBE (Illinois State Board of Education) by its identified due date of October 15, 2010. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Reddy, Barber, Harton, Gates, Spatz, Clouser, and Traczyk
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

2.4.1 Policy Adoption

Clouser moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, adopt the revised Verbatim Record of Closed Meeting bylaw (0168.2). Roll call vote.

Ayes: Clouser, Gates, Barber, Harton, Spatz, Reddy, and Traczyk
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

2.4.2 Donation Beye

Barber moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the donation of \$20,000 to fund technology purchases, including three smart boards, a classroom set of 30 iPod touches, a charging cart and five iPads from the Beye School PTO. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Barber, Reddy, Clouser, Gates, Harton, Spatz, and Traczyk
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

Vice President Barber clarified that the district has the responsibility to maintain equity between the schools and assets, including donations which can be relocated to maintain this balance.

TOPIC REVIEW

Topic Review

REFERENDUM PLANNING UPDATE

A discussion on the updated timeline took place as well as discussion regarding the community forums. November 18 was identified as the first forum and will be held in one of the district's school buildings. November 2 and 13 were identified as study sessions. It was suggested that the process be kept simple, focusing on one or two key points, and be clear on what is going to happen if the referendum passes and if it does not. It was also suggested that the Board review the referendum options during a study session and make their decision relative to the prior year's tax bill.

Jasculca reported that the survey will be active for one month and the Board will be updated on the status of the results at the next Board meeting.

RESOLUTION APPOINTING LEGAL COUNSEL IN CONNECTION WITH TAX RATE OBJECTIONS WITH PROCEEDINGS BEFORE STATE OF ILLINOIS

No questions were asked.

ANNUAL CAPITAL PROJECTS RECOMMENDATIONS

The Lincoln School construction project was discussed. O'Neill reported that ARRA stimulus money was available to put toward the expense of the project. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to request bids on both a one story and two story addition.

Superintendent's Report

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Dr. Roberts reported on the success of the community chats reporting that it is a learning experience for all in attendance, including himself.

Dr. Roberts commended the principals for their successful presentation. He reported that he is pleased with the way the principals work together. Dr. Roberts suggested that student achievement could be part of the evaluation process.

Dr. Roberts reported that one of the reasons the Madison Highland's project continues to be considered is because the administration is in need of a functional work space.

BOARD CONCERNS

Dr. Roberts reported that his 90-day report will be distributed next week.

Finally, Dr. Roberts reported that Board member Spatz was recognized as a Master Board Member by the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB).

Board Concerns

Board members were invited to participate in a Youth Interventionist Program being held at the Village Hall on Saturday, October 23 at 9 a.m. Member Gates showed interest in attending.

It was reported that FAC will be in need of four new members. FORC currently has no openings. Jasculca will assist with advertising the vacancies.

It was suggested that the Board give authority to the administration to seek appraisals on both the district office and the warehouse.

It was reported that the bond sale closed today at \$6.75 million.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

It was reported that FORC, in an effort to determine ways to handle the long-term structural deficit, recommended that the administration discuss cost savings with the bargaining units. The Board agreed to give Dr. Roberts the authority to move forward with this initiative.

Announcements

Member Spatz attended the *Race to Nowhere* movie. He reported that the movie focused on stress and health issues around school and family issues. The movie was followed by two hours of questions and answers. An additional session will be held at the Buzz Café.

The Board members were reminded to complete their IASB resolution surveys and to let the Board secretary know if they will be able to attend the joint conference.

A document was distributed to the members seeking feedback on the LAC. Members were asked to respond by October 15.

It was reported that the Education Council will discuss the concerns regarding the homework policy.

Board Response to Public Comment

BOARD RESPONSE
TO PUBLIC
COMMENT

None

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Traczyk declared the meeting adjourned at 10:43 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be on Tuesday, October 26, 2010, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Administration building located at 970 Madison Street.

Board President

Board Secretary