

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
Meeting February 12, 2013**

President Barber called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Barber, Gates, Felton, Sacks, Traczyk, Spatz, and O'Connor

Absent: None

Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Al Roberts, 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

Traczyk moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 6:02 p.m. to discuss (Appointment/Employment/Compensation/Discipline/Performance or Dismissal of Specific Employees of the Public Body or Legal Counsel of the Public Body, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), Pending Litigation 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11), Discussion of Lawfully Closed Meeting Minutes 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21), Student Discipline 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9)). Roll call vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

OPEN SESSION

Gates moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education move into open session at 6:52 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

OPEN SESSION

The meeting was reconvened at 7:02 p.m. with all Board members in attendance.

PUBLIC HEARING – CALENDAR

A public hearing was held to commute Lincoln's Birthday and Casimir Polaski Day in the 2013-14 school calendar. The public was invited to speak on this topic, and no one in the audience expressed interest in speaking.

PUBLIC HEARING CALENDAR

SPECIAL REPORTS

Tina Reynolds introduced the BRAVO troupe that participated in the Junior Theatre Festival in Atlanta, Georgia. The cast performed songs from *Once on this Island*. After performing, some of the actors and parents spoke about their experience at the festival.

SPECIAL REPORTS

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

ACTION ITEMS

2.1.1 Approval of Minutes of January 8, 2013

Sacks moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the revised minutes from the January 8, 2013. Roll call vote.

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

2.1.2 Approval of Minutes of January 22, 2013

Traczyk moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the minutes from the January 22, 2013. Roll call vote.

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

2.1.3 Review/Release of Closed Session Minutes

Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, to approve and release/keep confidential the executive session minutes for the following dates:

<u>Keep Confidential</u>	<u>Release</u>
July 17, 2012	November 13, 2012
August 21, 2012	
August 28, 2012	
September 11, 2012	
September 27, 2012	
October 16, 2012	
October 30, 2012	
December 11, 2012	

Member Traczyk explained the process to the audience.

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

2.2.1 Approval of Consent Agenda

President Barber read the items on the consent agenda. Traczyk moved, seconded by Felton, that the following items be approved on the consent agenda. Roll call vote.

- 2.3.1 Bill Lists and Related Reports
- 2.2.1 Personnel Action as presented are revised

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

2.4.1 Approval of the 2013-14 District Calendar

Gates moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the School Calendar for the 2013-2014 school year.

It was suggested that the Board determine if administrative guidelines, policies or procedures will be necessary to deal with holidays, especially with contract negotiations next year. The Board was reminded that it needs to be cautious not to cause a sense of lunacy with some of the issues that had been expressed at earlier Board meetings regarding the school calendar. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, O'Connor, Spatz, Traczyk, and Barber

Nays: Sacks and Felton

Motion passed.

2.4.2 Action on Student Discipline 20130212

Sacks moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, uphold the suspension of student 20130212. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

TOPIC REPORTS

TOPIC REPORTS

POLICY UPDATE

Chris Jasculca came to the table. He led the Board through a review of sections 1-4 of the new policy manual prepared by PRESS.

Several changes will be made to these policies before returning to the Board for approval. A few notable changes are:

Board members must complete at least four hours of training which will be noted on the Web site.

Future FOIA requests will be reported to the Board in the Information Only section of the Board packet.

It was noted that policy 6100 from the old manual (new 422) will be included with sections 5-8 of the new manual and come to the Board for review during the February 26, 2013 meeting.

Jasculca requested that questions on the remaining policies be sent to him prior to the posting of the next Board packet, with expectations of approval on March 19, 2013.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BID

Dr. Roberts introduced the detailed memo from Therese O'Neill. He reported that she is healing well and he is confident in her summer capital improvement proposal.

It was noted that the Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC) will meet on March 19, 2013. At that time, the committee will review the variance in bids.

Board comments included interest in knowing what a professional tuck-pointer costs.

BOARD GOALS TIMELINE

(1.3) Public Report of Priorities for Recruitment

Joanne Schochat came to the table. She reported that the priorities are to hire the best and the brightest, with consideration to diversity. She reported that thirteen certified staff are scheduled for retirement, and she is meeting with the principals to identify potential needs in their buildings

BOARD GOALS TIMELINE (Continued)

for the fall. Schochat will be meeting with member Traczyk to firm up some of the plans for recruitment, noting that a local job fair may be considered. Some college job fairs will also be attended. In addition, Schochat is reaching out to other local colleges and universities. An update on this topic will be shared during the February 26, 2013 Board meeting.

(1.4) document displaying the alignment of staff development to effective practice (Review Revised Plan)

Lisa Schwartz came to the table. She reported that professional development is a critical component in providing District 97 staff with the knowledge and tools needed to perform effectively in the ever-changing academic environment. Common Core, IB, and integration of technology were key topics of focus. Schwartz reported that common agendas are being created for school staff meetings that focus on Common Core, teacher evaluations and data analysis. Teachers who attended the Summer Summit training last summer are now leading some of the training sessions. Schwartz reported that surveys taken after institute days indicate that the staff appreciates being taught by their peers.

Based on the feedback received from teachers and staff members, consistency among schools in regards to professional development is considered to be very important. In the information collected for the Systems Audit it was clear from the teacher comments that they have valued the Common Core professional development and discussions on how the district will transition to using more common assessments.

Dr. Roberts noted that the staff is juggling a lot and should be commended. He shared that the staff is able to see where the district is going and understands the goal which will free up their time to become more creative.

Schwartz noted that teachers are piloting some of the Common Core initiatives before they actually have to implement them. She noted that it is a work in progress and additional training will be offered as the district moves forward with this initiative.

She also reported that the bulk of the remaining middle school teachers will receive IB training this summer. Additionally, a school wide IB training will be held and some staff will be attending category two IB training. Dr. Roberts reported that staff members from Shaker Heights will be visiting the district to offer support.

Board comments included noting that the district is already preparing for IB and using the Danielson guidelines. Administration was commended for instructing the teachers on the evaluation instrument. Interest was expressed in open-ended responses to the survey.

The Board agreed that this report met the measure of success for goal 1.4. The Board agreed to consider requesting this report annually when they prepare their goals for next year.

(1.5) Evaluation Documents – Facility and Staff (Discuss draft plan for evaluation documentation)

Member O'Connor distributed a document to the Board. Dr. Roberts share that the objective for evaluation is high quality, helpful, timely feedback for every employee. The task will require completion of a thorough report that provides the Board with information relative to what the district is doing well to achieve the goal of high quality feedback; what strategies or systems might help the district to become more effective and efficient, and issues of frequency and quality control.

It was noted that a written report will be shared with the Board in March, 2013 and a formal update will be shared in April, 2013.

BOARD GOALS TIMELINE (Continued)

(2.1) Four to six public reports on areas of community interest (Date/Agenda Core and Evaluation)

Review and Updating of Timeline

Dr. Roberts shared a Powerpoint that identified March 13, 2013 as a Common Core community meeting. The evening will allow for breakout sessions focused on mini lessons, experiencing Common Core teaching and facilitated discussion. Lessons learned will be discussed and comments will be posted.

Board comments included interest in knowing how many more tests will be required per year?

April 25, 2013 will be a session on Teacher Evaluation. A brief overview of the Danielson model and district perspective will be shared. Role Playing showing a teacher evaluation between a teacher and principal in each of the domains will be done. The post conference observations will be explored via table discussions on what everyone learned during the meeting and how it will help individuals as a parent/teacher.

A discussion on Student Achievement will be held on May 23, 2013. The data coaches will report on how the district is using data to drive instruction. Examples of using data effectively, strategies that have worked and lessons we have learned will be explored. Audience participation (table talk) will discuss and come to consensus on three important things parents and teachers can do to strengthen student achievement.

Dr. Roberts requested the right to modify the agendas as he accumulates more data. The district will begin to advertise these events in the very near future.

1.6 Multiple Compensation Strategies Comparison Report

Member Traczyk reported that the committee held its first meeting. The scope of the committee was discussed. Further discussion on this topic will need to occur at the end of May.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

Police Chief Tanksley offered assistance in training administrators in crisis management. Training will begin this Thursday and continue on March 14, 2013. A Secretary/Administrative Assistant and at least one teacher from each school will also participate. It was suggested that the district publicly report on this training.

The April in-service will focus on teacher evaluations. A joint venture with the OPTA and a consultant is in the planning.

Middle School transition to the high school will be considered. Dr. Roberts will ask the eighth grade teachers from all disciplines to meet with him. He will then meet with the District 200 Superintendent to make plans for a smoother transition.

The KIDS State trainers reported that District 97 is light-years ahead of the other districts in the pilot.

Dr. Roberts reported that the Technology committee met yesterday and he is pleased with its progress.

Dr. Roberts recommended a committee to standardize holidays in future district calendars. He suggested more than one Board member participate on this committee. It was noted that this committee is intended to be a short-term enhancement. It will be an administrative

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Continued)

committee and will report back to the Board. Additionally, parents and clergy will be invited to participate in this process.

Dr. Roberts reported that he has not received any feedback from the Board regarding the technology purchase recommendations. He asked the Board to respond to his request if they have questions/concerns before the proposal comes to the Board for approval on February 26, 2013. He shared that the goal is to have interactive classrooms by the end of the year.

BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board expressed interest in continuing the inserts in the OP/FYI Newsletter.

Those Who Excel award nominations are due on February 22, 2013. Board members were asked to send nominations to Chris Jasculca.

Members Felton, Traczyk and Vice President Spatz attended an Early Childhood Collaboration meeting last week.

The BRAVO Pasta Night was held last week and was well attended.

It was noted that the district has communicated information about the five Essentials better than most districts in the state. A college readiness threshold was recommended.

The Special Education department sponsored a Resource Fair. Event feedback from parents and vendors was good. A parent workshop on the IEP process was held at Holmes and in March, an event will be held focusing on behavior intervention.

Member Sacks attended a meeting last week in River Forest on executive function.

The West Cook IASB meeting is on March 5, 2013. President Barber shared that he has been invited to speak to incoming candidates at this event.

The tenth annual Early Childhood Symposium brochure was shared. The event will be held on Saturday, February 23, 2013.

Interest was expressed in knowing where the district stands on every day math curriculum renewal.

The Board was asked to review the ECRA Group draft proposal that was distributed under separate cover. This item will be included in the agenda for discussion during the February 26, 2013 meeting.

The Share the Success proposal prepared by the C.L.A.I.M. committee was shared with the Board. Several signatures were requested to finalize the document which will be submitted tomorrow. It was noted that the Board proposal was submitted as well.

Dr. Roberts reported that he is confident that the district is up to present practice with emergency drills, etc., but he would like to see improvement.

A future meeting held outside of the district office was suggested.

It was noted that several Board members will be attending the League of Villages event.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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SESSION

Spatz moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 9:57 p.m. to discuss (Purchase or Lease of Real Property 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5)). Roll call vote.

Ayes: Spatz, Sacks, O’Connor, Traczyk, Felton, Gates, and Barber

Nays: None

Motion passed.

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education move into open session at 10:55 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

ADJOURNMENT

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There being no further business to conduct, President Barber declared the meeting adjourned at 10:55 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, February 26, 2013 beginning at 7 p.m. at the administration building located at 970 Madison Street.

Board President

Board Secretary