



# Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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TO: District 97 Board of Education  
Dr. Carol Kelley, Superintendent

CC: Mike Padavic, Senior Director for Student Services

FROM: Steve Cummins, Senior Director of Human Resources

DATE: March 15, 2016

RE: Lauren Saliny Golden Apple Leave & Michael Mayer TA assignment

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Lauren Saliny, Special Education Teacher, was a 2015 recipient of the Golden Apple award. She will be commencing an approved sabbatical leave for study with a cohort of Golden Apple honorees at Northwestern University for the remainder of the school following spring break. Lauren's special education classroom is comprised of students with very specific needs. Michael Mayer is a teacher assistant who serves as a TA Planning Substitute. He frequently provides coverage and instruction to the students in Ms. Saliny's classroom and is familiar with her students' educational needs. Mr. Mayer is also a licensed teacher with a special education LBS1 endorsement fully qualified to serve in the role for the remainder of the school year. Administration supports Michael Mayer as the best person suited to meet the needs of the students.

Conversation has occurred with the OPTAA leadership regarding the situation. The OPTAA is in support of Michael Mayer being reassigned and serving in this capacity as Teacher Assistant - Permanent Reserve Teacher (a position defined within the OPTAA agreement) for the remainder of the school year. He will remain in the bargaining unit and perform in this temporary capacity within the structure of the contract language that allows for the Teacher Assistant - Permanent Reserve Teacher.

Recognizing that there may be additional planning and preparation that occurs outside of the school day, Mr. Mayer will be authorized to submit up to five hours per week via timesheet for work performed outside of his TA workday. These additional hours will be compensated at the normal hourly rate for he will remain under 40 hours per week. The OPTAA agreement allows for overtime hours when there has been prior approval by the supervisor. The overall monetary cost will be comparable to the \$180 per day long-term substitute rate paid to those hired externally as long-term substitutes.