

**Official Minutes of the  
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,  
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois  
Special Meeting – April 17, 2012**

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

Present: Barber, Gates (6:20 pm), Felton, Sacks, Traczyk, Spatz

Absent: O'Connor

Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Al Roberts, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Therese O'Neill, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

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None

ACTION ITEMS

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**3.1 Acceptance of Proclamation for Week of the Young Child**

Traczyk moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the proclamation for the Week of the Young Child. President Barber read the proclamation aloud.

**Proclamation for the Week of the Young Child**

**Whereas**, the Oak Park Elementary School District 97 and all Oak Park jurisdictions and early childhood providers recognize the critical importance of the early childhood years; and

**Whereas**, Oak Park is working as a community to improve early learning opportunities for all children in order to provide a strong foundation of success in school and in life; and

**Whereas**, teachers and others who make a difference in the lives of young children in Oak Park deserve thanks and recognition; and

**Whereas**, public policies that support early learning for all young children are crucial to young children's futures;

**Now therefore**, be it resolved that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary Schools District 97 does hereby proclaim April 22-28, 2012 as the Week of the Young Child and encourages all citizens to work to make good investments in early childhood in Oak Park.

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Traczyk, Sacks, Felton, Barber, and Spatz

Nays: None

Absent: Gates, O'Connor

Motion passed.

## **TOPIC REPORTS**

### **SCHOOLYARD**

The Board continued the discussion from April 10, 2012 on the possibility of replacing the playground surfaces with rubberized materials.

O'Neill reported that the playground upgrades are included in the capital plan. The Facilities committee is refining the plan and she believes that the district will find the additional funds needed to upgrade the playground surfaces to the rubberized materials. Other budget lines that could be considered to finance this project were discussed.

The Board secretary left the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Although not all Board members were in agreement, it was noted that the rubberized surfaces on the playgrounds will improve accessibility, durability, equity and will add to the quality of each building.

Administration was asked to move forward with this process.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Roberts updated the Board on the status of the administrator interview process.

Dr. Roberts reported that the district will be getting a grant to cover the International Baccalaureate trip to Shaker Heights, Ohio. He reported that the grant was so generous that if interest is expressed in the program, a team of IB experts from Shaker Heights could be brought to Oak Park in the future.

The team will leave around 8 a.m. on Thursday, May 3, 2012, returning to the district on Friday, May 4, 2012 around 7:30 p.m. Those in attendance will have the opportunity to tour the Shaker Heights middle school and high school and meet with administration. Five Board members expressed interest in attending this trip.

## **BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, President Barber declared the meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, April 24, 2012 beginning at 7 p.m. in the administration building located at 970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois.

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Board President

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Board Secretary