

**Official Minutes of the  
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,  
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois  
Meeting October 30, 2012**

President Barber called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Present: Barber, Gates, Felton, Sacks, Traczyk (6:34 p.m.), Spatz, and O'Connor  
Absent: None  
Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Al Roberts, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Therese O'Neill, 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**

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 6:34 p.m. Roll call vote.

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

**OPEN SESSION**

OPEN SESSION

Gates moved, seconded by Traczyk, that the Board of Education move into open session at 6:57 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:05 p.m. with all Board members in attendance.

**PUBLIC HEARING – ISSUANCE OF BONDS**

PUBLIC HEARING  
– ISSUANCE OF  
BONDS

O'Neill explained that Debt Service Extension Base (DSEB) has historically been used to support the district's capital projects. She noted that with the approval of the referendum, the district shared a vision, and chose to pursue three annual borrowings to support the capital project work. Members of the audience were asked to voice their opinion on this topic and no one expressed interest.

**SPECIAL REPORTS**

SPECIAL  
REPORTS

**FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND REVIEW (FORC) ANNUAL REPORT**

FORC Chairperson Craig Iseli came to the table. He reported that this year, the committee commented on the non-operating funds, capital trends and the annual budget, reviewed discretionary expenses, monitored state aid and state payments to the district, reviewed the proposed annual levy, and the key assumptions that went into the PMA models. The committee also reviewed the districts investment and borrowing policies, the annual audit and audit issues.

Iseli reported that FORC moved forward with getting their members more active within the district. Several members are monitoring specific topics (investments, news from Springfield, tracking contractual negotiations and monitoring their impact on financial forecasts, following annual audit progress and ensuring major investments have clear performance matrix.

## FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND REVIEW (FORC) ANNUAL REPORT (Continued)

The committee's post referendum activities include a proposal for a new financial policy emphasizing best practice, that is data driven and compares against other districts. The FORC proposed a new policy that is being reviewed by the policy committee, and a working group has been put in place to begin making comparisons. Additionally, the FORC will focus on state funding during the 2012-13 school year, considering a recommendation to move from an accrual basis to a line item for pension obligations. Iseli noted that the FORC feels that the environment next year is good to make longer term investments.

Board comments and questions included a comment that there is still room within the investment policy for FORC to make recommendations. It was suggested that a FORC member be included on the CLAIM committee, and a line item be added in the forecast that will help monitor the pension data. It was also suggested that the district look at comparisons to other communities.

Iseli reported that the committee is made up of seven community members, three of which are stepping down. He asked the Board to officially recognize their efforts in some way. He noted that he is also stepping down after five years on the committee.

## COMMITTEE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION, INTERVENTION, AND MONITORING (C.L.A.I.M.) WORK PLAN

C.L.A.I.M. chairperson Anne Warden came to the table along with committee members Meredith Schacht, Rupa Datta and Carollyn Song. Warden shared the impressive breath of experience amongst the committee members.

Accomplishments were identified as;

- Established committee protocol and policies
- Developed three subcommittees based on the Board's legislative priorities (Finance, KIDS, and Data Sharing)
- Drafted and approved formal description of committee's mission
- Held nine open meetings since January, 2012
- Invited guest speakers to meetings to build knowledge base and relationships, including: ED-RED, Stand for Children, Steve Richart, (attorney), Felicia Starks Turner (D97) and Meg Ross (D97) regarding data sharing laws

Goals were identified as:

- Maintain this work plan through the coming year and revise goals as necessary
- Continue to build the committee's relationships with key state legislators and encourage their perception that C.L.A.I.M. is an active advocate for District 97 and important ally
- Keep the Board informed of important developments to its priority legislative issues, as well as new legislative issues that the Board might consider as additional priorities

Song reported on the KIDS subcommittee accomplishments, noting that the team;

- Wrote to Illinois State Superintendent Koch to reiterate interest in the KIDS pilot program
- Communicated with appropriate staff at ISBE regularly to reiterate interest and gain information about status
- Kept District 97 abreast of timeline for implementation of KIDS pilot program
- Communicated with early childhood advocacy organizations to gain information about status of KIDS
- Contacted the four state legislators to solicit their support for District 97's participation in KIDS CLAIM was notified by Superintendent Koch that District 97 was chosen to be one of the twenty school districts statewide to be a KIDS pilot district

## CLAIM WORK PLAN (Continued)

Goals for this subcommittee include continuation to offer support as KIDS is implemented and revising the subcommittee's purpose as needed.

Schacht reported on the finance subcommittee's achievements:

- Submitted two IASB resolutions, including one that was accepted and will be voted on by delegates at the November state conference
- Met with O'Neill to discuss and learn about the district's finances
- Developed finance impact statement to give to state legislators
- Made preliminary contact with Representative Lilly and Senator Lightford and obtained legislator availability for a meeting with the C.L.A.I.M. representatives

Goals for the Finance subcommittee include;

- Obtain Board approval for finance impact statement and guidance on legislative positions
- Meet with legislators in small groups and introduce C.L.A.I.M. and its objectives, particularly related to pressing financial issues
- Hold large-format, public legislator forum to engage the community and build relationships

Schacht reported that a draft impact statement was included in the Board packets for their review, noting that the document is a high level touch on many issues that will come up in the next year. President Barber asked the Board to read the document outside of the meeting and share their input with member Gates or O'Connor. This document can be voted on during the next Board meeting.

Datta reported on the data subcommittee accomplishment;

- Investigated data sharing options and practices at student level and aggregate level amount a variety of school districts within and outside of Illinois
- Inquired into the plans for the Illinois State Longitudinal Data System (ILLDS) to see whether that platform would meet the data sharing objectives of District 97; determined that current plans do not provide districts access to data about their former students, so the IL LDS would not be adequate for District 97 objectives without modification
- Investigates the impact of the Illinois School Student Records Act (SRA) on District 97's ability to use student data to improve instructional outcomes, particularly with regards to sharing with other districts and schools; determined that the Act has increased costs of records transfer for the district
- Currently gathering background, implementation, and impact information to understand the implications of the Act on costs and learning

Goals for the Data subcommittee include;

- Identify District 97's plans to use in-house data to improve student performance from one grade level to another
- Recommend District 97 superintendent recommend to the District 200 superintendent, a reciprocal consent form to facilitate data sharing and/or drafting of intergovernmental agreement to share data as permitted by the SRA when used as a resource project or for curricular planning
- Meet with local legislators to discuss modifying their SRA to allow districts access to data pertaining to their former students (thereby significantly equalizing access of non-unit to unit district, and improving/understanding outcomes of transfer students)

#### CLAIM WORK PLAN (Continued)

Datta explained the importance of longitudinal data analysis and how the district should be thinking about what the students are doing, noting that the district needs to focus on the ultimate outcome for each student. A lot can be done with the data the district currently has (up to nine years per student). It will take time to analyze the data, develop the right questions and organize the feedback group to analyze the data. The message to legislature needs to be clearly presented so the district is not asking for modifications in the near future.

Dr. Roberts shared that information from the district's attorneys indicate that the laws are narrow in focus, and difficult to navigate through. He indicated that the districts interest to share data is not limited to the high school, but also the preschools.

Vice President Spatz, who is a member of the ED-RED Executive Board, noted that ED-RED is also looking at data sharing issues. He reported that there is another district within the ED-RED community that has expressed interest in this topic. He noted that as a KIDS pilot, the district may be eligible for other pilots or state financial support.

Member Gates, who is also a member of the C.L.A.I.M. committee, noted that the resolution presented by the committee is number 14 to be voted on. He also noted that a member of the Illinois Association of School Boards has expressed interest in learning how to start a similar committee in the Lindop district. He encouraged the Board to think big when submitting challenges to this committee.

Other Board members comments included a recommendation for this committee to work with Districts 200 and 90. It was noted that District 97 can have up to nine years of data on each student, and a lot of information can be compiled from that data. It was suggested that District 97 can become a good role model for neighboring districts and was encouraged to consider what can be done in-house to ensure the success of all students.

Board members were asked to send questions or comments on the impact statement to member Gates. If no major changes are recommended, the documents will return to the Board for approval during the November 13 meeting. Warden will let the Board know if additional member are needed on this committee.

#### STUDENT ENROLLMENT AND PERSONNEL REPORT

Joanne Schochat came to the table. She reported in detail on certified/non-certified staff and student enrollment. She noted that five non-certified administrative support positions were not filled this year, certified staff increased by three, non-certified staff is down by six positions and enrollment increased by 170 students over last year. She shared data comparing the diversity of teachers and students in Oak Park to other neighboring districts and state wide statistics, and noted that the district continues to work on hiring and maintaining the best staff it can find. She will work with MSAN and recruitment fairs to find the best and brightest teachers, in an effort to have our staff reflect the diversity within our community.

Board comments and suggestions included a recommendation for the district to analyze where the highest ranking teachers graduated from and consider recruiting from those schools. It was suggested that the district may already have such a report. It was recommended that the district analyze how it is doing at retaining the highly qualified staff from diverse backgrounds. If the statistics demonstrate that the district is losing minority staff members, it should consider why that is occurring. It was noted that although enrollment increased, the district was able to keep the staff down. It was noted that retirements may increase depending on which direction the state moves in.

## STUDENT ENROLLMENT AND PERSONNEL REPORT (Continued)

It was noted that the middle schools are at a high mark since the buildings were built. It was recommended that the buildings be analyzed for stresses. Interest was expressed in seeing a comparison chart with representation from Bright Red Apple districts and districts of similar achievement, salaries, etc. Schochat was challenged to include mixed race students/teachers in the charts.

## CLIMATE SURVEY

Chris Jasculca came to the table. He reported on the history of the Climate survey. He noted that the purpose of the survey has remained the same, methodology, format and focus have evolved. He reported that in 2005, the focus was more on overall climate in schools/district; and gave participants the opportunity to give feedback on educational programs. During the 2008-09 school year, the survey was lined up with the strategic plan and began alternating between parents and students. During this time, the report used a 360 approach and was used to supply a “quick pulse”. During the 2011-12 school year, the report became more evaluative in nature, offered a short and long form, and offered the opportunity to supply feedback on a variety of topics (academic programs, building climate, facilities, etc.).

This year, three new principals were hired after the survey was taken. The timing of the survey corresponded with irregularities in the administration of ISAT at Mann. There were several challenges with the format, grouping of the staff members and inability to effectively consolidate data. Concern over a lack of knowledge about experience dealing with central office departments and the survey results being considered a FOIAable document were expressed.

763 parents/guardians and 326 staff members completed the survey; compared to 1227 parents/guardians and 485 staff members who completed the survey in 2008-09. This represents a decrease of 37.8 percent in parents/guardian response, and 32.8 percent decrease in the response from the staff. It was noted that this also represents the lowest participation in the five-year period. Jasculca noted several possible factors (general satisfaction with schools/district, survey fatigue, timing, belief regarding effectiveness of surveys), as possible reasons for the response decline, but reminded the Board that there is no definitive way to pinpoint the reason for the low rate of participation.

Jasculca shared a sampling of results for the schools, noting that the full results for each building will be posted online. He took the building-level results and calculated consolidated ratings for all 10 schools in several categories: facilities, quality of teaching and instruction, day-to-day performance of teachers, building administration and other staff, communications and climate. The consolidated calculations represent percentages of people (parents/guardians and staff) who rated schools as good or excellent in selected categories.

Jasculca reported that the key findings and conclusions showed a high level of satisfaction with our schools with 85 percent of the people rated the schools as good or excellent in quality of teaching and instruction, day-to-day performance of teachers and day-to-day performance of other building staff. The rating for communications (80.7 percent good or excellent) was positive, but several principals cited this as an area for improvement. Some principals highlighted a commitment to improve their own day-to-day performance (78.2 percent good or excellent) – most notably their accessibility, communication, leadership and responsiveness.

Facilities (69.1 percent good or excellent) and climate (71.6 percent good or excellent) received the lowest rating. For facilities, quality and condition of outdoor spaces were consistently rated low, and temperature issues were raised by a number of respondents as a concern. The district is performing upgrades to schoolyards and studying options for adding air conditioning to buildings.

## CLIMATE SURVEY (Continued)

For parents/guardians, climate concerns are effectiveness of PBIS and handling of disciplinary issues. The Board adopted a new discipline policy and administration drafted new discipline guidelines; staff is identifying strategies for improving overall effectiveness of the PBIS program and communicating how it impacts students both in and out of the classroom. The climate concerns for staff were identified as mainly morale. The schools/district are identifying ways to celebrate/promote the accomplishments of staff, highlight/recognize their contributions to our schools, district and community, and help them feel like they are valued members of the team.

Regarding the Board of Education, the survey demonstrated that the rating for day-to-day performance on the short form of both surveys was good with 69.6 percent of the parents/guardians, and 61.2 percent of staff members rating it as good or excellent. The Board of Education was rated high in the area of professionalism on the long form of both surveys at 65.4 percent of parents/guardians and 66.7 percent of staff members rating this area as good or excellent. The overall rating of the Board's day-to-day performance by parents/guardians and staff members (58.9 percent good or excellent) reflects the importance of identifying ways to improve its relationship with both groups. The potential barrier to accomplishing this goal is the fact that most people either do not attend Board meetings or only attend them on an annual basis.

The Board is overcoming obstacles by attending monthly PTO meetings, participating in more school and community events, and seeking ways to communicate more directly/engage in dialogue with citizens and staff members. Administration has been asked to look into the cost and logistics associated with webcasting or podcasting its meetings so information is more readily accessible to everyone.

The superintendent rated high in the area of professionalism on the long form of both surveys with 66.7 percent of parents/guardians and 62.2 percent of staff members rated this area as good or excellent. The superintendent received good ratings on the day-to-day performance on the short form of the parent/guardian survey and in the areas of responsiveness and timeliness of communications on the long form of the parent/guardian survey. Overall rating of day-to-day performance by both groups (53.7 percent good or excellent), as well as the rating for support (22.9 percent good or excellent) and collaboration (21.8 percent good or excellent) on the long form of the staff survey, highlight that steps need to be taken to cultivate stronger, more effective partnerships with stakeholders.

The superintendent has already taken several significant steps this year by introducing the International Baccalaureate program at the middle schools, approving the comprehensive district-wide systems audit, initiating the Technology Advisory Committee and the Parent Educator Partnership program. He will maintain an open, productive dialogue with the district's bargaining units, groups such as Education Council, Administrative Leadership and PTO Council, community organizations, etc., and continue to find ways to give people a voice and an active role in fulfilling the mission and vision for the district.

The Central office departments averaged 72.8 percent of people who took the survey rated the overall day-to-day performance of the district's central office department as good or excellent. The departments identified the need to improve in the following areas:

- Communication
- Collaboration
- Leadership
- Visibility
- Accessibility
- Responsiveness

## CLIMATE SURVEY (Continued)

The departments will continue to find ways to educate people about their roles and responsibilities because some respondents stated that they knew little about them.

77.5 percent of parents/guardians and 68.3 percent of the staff members rated the district's efforts to communicate with them as good or excellent; highlights need to continue identifying ways to effectively keep both groups updated and informed about what is happening in the district. 58.7 percent of parents/guardians and staff rated the effectiveness of the district's five-year technology plan as good or excellent. The newly formed Superintendent's Advisory Committee will be charged with reviewing the technology plan and offering guidance regarding how it can be modified to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of students and staff.

88.2 percent of parents/guardians and staff members rated the district's academic programs as good or excellent. The district will monitor and assess how the implementation of Common Core and IB program will impact overall quality of the programs.

48.7 percent of the parents/guardians and staff members rated the district's five-year strategic plan as good or excellent. A number of parents/guardians said they were new to the district and did not know much about the plan. Some staff members felt the district could have done a better job of communicating the status/progress of the plan. Several people highlighted important accomplishments that resulted from the strategic plan (implementation of full-day kindergarten, the introduction of PBIS, redesign of the website); while others felt the plan was too complicated, long and aspirational to be effective. The superintendent is currently working on a plan to move the district from a model of strategic planning to one of strategic thinking.

The food services department was ranked at good or excellent 39.3 percent of the time. The results highlighted that there is a divide among parents/guardians about the need to/benefits of offering healthier, more nutritious options at lunch. Some parents/guardians believe more can/should be done in terms of offering healthy, nutritious meals; while others believe the focus on health and nutrition has diminished the quality of the food. Several parents/guardians believe portion sizes are too small; others requested that the district offer more allergy-friendly options. The district will continue to work with the families, staff and District 200 to improve the overall quality of the lunch program.

Transportation was noted at 61.6 percent of parents/guardians rating the district transportation program as good or excellent. Positive comments about the overall quality of the program, especially the service offered on the special education buses, as well as about specific drivers. Some believe that the quality of the drivers is inconsistent, and others believe maintaining discipline is an issue on some of the buses. The district will continue to work with families, staff and the Lakeview Bus Company to improve the overall quality of the program.

The Climate Survey provided valuable feedback about the district, highlighted strengths (academic programs, quality of teaching and instruction, etc.), and identified areas for improvement (timeliness of our communications, effectiveness of the technology plan, etc.). Discussion took place as to whether the survey is an effective long-term solution for helping to accurately assess critical issues. The decrease in participation was discussed, noting possible factors as tendency for people who are generally satisfied not to take surveys, survey fatigue in the district and community as a whole, the timing of the survey and overall belief in the effectiveness of the survey.

Jasculca reported that the state is developing mandatory learning climate surveys in conjunction with the Common Core. The need to determine if the district will continue to administer its own survey; and, if so, what can be done to make it a more effective resource for soliciting feedback from stakeholders, was also discussed.

## CLIMATE SURVEY (Continued)

Board comments included concern over the rating of the Board. Interest was expressed in feedback that makes the Board members accountable to the members of the community. Concern was expressed regarding the frequency of surveys. Interest was expressed in more detail on issues when they are ranked low in the survey, receiving the results during the summer, and in other options to a survey. It was noted that the state wide survey will allow the district to compare student and staff numbers to other districts.

Dr. Roberts reported that the Board and administration will continue to work to establish partnerships, noting some significant challenges ahead. He complimented the Board, stating that in his 22 years working with different boards, he could only think of two others that were as effective as this one.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

PUBLIC  
COMMENT

Ellyn Gullo, a River Forest resident and Irving School teacher, expressed interest in having a school year that is safe for the children and challenges their endurance. She noted that the asphalt on the Irving playground is dangerous. She reported that the Irving faculty supports the schoolyard project, and encouraged the Board to move forward with it without delay.

Sue Tressent, an Irving School teachers, reported that her mother attended Irving. She describes the play and recess areas to be almost identical then, as they are now, noting that it was a blacktop back then. She expressed her disappointment that the district has not found ways to make this change, noting that the district needs to make improvements to this area like at the other schools.

Amy Chinn, an Irving School teacher and Oak Park resident, reported that she moved to the area so her son could attend Irving School. She shared that he cannot run on the blacktop during play time, as there are too many skinned knees and falls. She pleaded for a new playground for the children of Irving school.

Barbara Hoffman, an Oak Park resident, reported that she has two children at Irving. She thanked the Board of Education for their support for the planning of the Irving Schoolyard project and for the community. She thanked teachers and staff for their efforts to make the schoolyard project come to life. She noted that the goal is safety, and encouraged the Board to be bold in their leadership and install a multipurpose field and rubberized playground surface. She understands that the Irving schoolyard will need to cost more than the other schoolyards, as it is in much worse condition. She reported that the schoolyard committee has applied for many grants, collected over \$100,000 for the project, and is eager to continue planning the project with the district.

Rob Breymaier, an Oak Park resident and Executive Director of the Oak Park House Authority, reported that the Housing Center believes that the schoolyard is important. He shared that in housing and education, perception is important, noting that the perception influences people when making a decision on where to live and where to send their children to school. The new schoolyard will have a positive effect on the school district and the community as a whole. Changing outside will reflect the wonderful learning that takes place there. He noted that his child chipped a tooth on the Irving blacktop.

**ACTION ITEMS****4.1.2 Approval of Minutes of October 16, 2012**

Traczyk moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the revised minutes from the October 16, 2012 meeting. Roll call vote.

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

**4.2.1 Approval of Consent Agenda**

President Barber read the items on the consent agenda. Sacks moved, seconded by O'Connor as presented.

2.3.1 Bill Lists and Related Reports

2.2.1 Personnel Action as revised

Roll call vote.

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

**2.4.1 Resolution Appointing Legal Counsel in Connection with Tax Rate Objections**

Gates moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, adopt the attached Resolution of the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97, Cook County, Illinois, authorizing the intervention in the 2003 and 2004 tax rate objection proceedings through the appointment of the legal counsel Hodges, Loizzi, Eisenhammer, Rodick and Kohn as reviewed at the October 16, 2012 meeting. Roll call vote.

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

**2.4.2 Approval of Field Trips – BRAVO and Julian Middle School Band**

Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the out-of-state field trip for the BRAVO students to participate in the Theater Festival in Atlanta, GA on January 17-21, 2013 and the Julian seventh and eighth grade Choir, Band and Orchestra students to visit Cleveland, Ohio on May 17-19, 2013. Roll call vote.

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

**2.4.3 Acceptance of Donation - Whittier**

Gates moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the donation of an industrial model Fellowes shredder for the Whittier School office from Mr. Thomas Lesiowski. Roll call vote.

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

## **TOPIC REPORTS**

### **IRVING SCHOOLYARD DISCUSSION**

Therese O'Neill came to the table with Altamanu representatives John MacManus, Ben Ahring and Josephine Bellatta. O'Neill explained the process that has transpired with the Irving schoolyard project. The message from the schoolyard committee has been to remove as much of the asphalt as possible and replace it with green space, and the need for underground drainage has been identified. O'Neill reported that a minimalist view of the playground and parking lot are being considered.

MacManus and Bellatta presented a new proposal noting the deadline of November 9, 2012 for Board approval in order for the project to stay on track. The alternative designs, which included parking, field and playground options, were discussed in detail.

### **IRVING SCHOOLYARD DISCUSSION (Continued)**

The Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant Program for Storm water management (IGIG) was discussed. It was reported that this grant has been applied for; however, Altamanu does not think that Oak Park has a very good chance of receiving it. The district could, however, receive a lesser grant of between \$15,000 - \$75,000 from IGIG.

Dr. Roberts reported that he would like to remove the black top. He is looked into the possibilities of partnerships to help with the expense of the field. He noted that the Board has already committed to over twice as much financially as the other schoolyard projects, earmarking \$500,000 for the field/playground and \$100,000 for removal of the blacktop. He noted that the Irving schoolyard committee currently has about \$30,000 to put toward the project. Several grants are possible and a \$50,000 donation has been offered if the U10 field is installed. He suggested pursuing a partnership for the turf field that would keep the district in line with the amount the Board has already identified. Interest in a cost analysis of the U8 field versus a U10 field with lights was expressed. Interest in possible partnerships was expressed as was an interest to possibly completing the project in phases.

Discussion took place about fixing the existing playground equipment. ADA concerns were discussed. Dr. Roberts reported that the Park District is more interested in a U10 field. With a partnership, we can afford the better playground as well. Interest was expressed in knowing when the Park District will complete a master field plan.

Discussion took place about the advantages/disadvantages of building a U10 field on this location. Dr. Roberts shared that a U10 field is possible, with movement of the parking lot. It would put the turf field approximately seven feet away from the school building. The possibility of lighting of the field was discussed.

Board comments included an observation that the Board has always been in support of the Irving Schoolyard project. It was noted that the Irving playground was placed at the bottom of the playground improvement list in an effort to facilitate the communities' ability to raise funds. Interest was expressed in recycling the pavement. Concern was expressed over the timeline and a recommendation to go ahead with the other playgrounds was made. It was recommended that the parking lot issues be addressed in the 10-year plan, and the needs of the other parking lots should be considered at the same time.

It was noted that the Park District will not be able to make a commitment until December or January and the IGIG grant needs to be submitted by December 15. The Board was encouraged to determine the risk it is willing to bear. Dr. Roberts was asked to research the possibilities again and the Board agreed to review this topic during the November 13 meeting.

## ANNUAL CAPITAL PROJECTS RECOMMENDATIONS

O'Neill reported that her memorandum lists items done last year, at a cost of \$300,000 more than originally estimated. She noted that Whittier school was more than estimated, and a lift was put in at Hatch that will be paid for out of Medicaid funds. She noted that when Medicaid reimburses the projects, the projects will be only about \$70,000 over the original estimate.

The proposed work for this year includes the installation of air conditioning in the auditoriums at Holmes and Irving schools, four playgrounds will be rebuilt, tuck pointing will be completed at Longfellow, Irving and Hatch schools, and insulation of some pipes above the first floor corridors at Holmes school, at an estimated cost of \$1,154,000. FAC reviewed the plans for last year's work and this year's proposal. The proposal comes to the Board with their recommendation. This item will return to the Board on November 13 for approval.

## PRESENT ESTIMATE OF PROPERTY TAX LEVY AND SET LEVY HEARING DATE

O'Neill reported that the tax levy is a four step process; estimated levy, approval, final levy and approval. This presentation begins the process. The estimated levy will be approved on November 13. On November 27, the Board will discuss the process and final approval will take place on December 11. She noted that normally the levy increases by the CPI.

## DRAFT TIMELINE FOR BOARD GOAL REVIEW

This item was table.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION PROCESS

O'Connor recommended that the superintendent's evaluation tool mirror the principal evaluation. He recommended a weight of 25 percent to match the principals. Everyone was in agreement.

O'Connor recommended taking out references to next year and all agreed.

Problems with the targets were identified. O'Connor recommended going with the percent identified and not percentage points. It was noted that the targets have been reached in the last two years, and that the goals are reasonable.

Dr. Roberts noted that the importance in sending the right message to the teachers this year, that the process is not something to fear, but to embrace.

The Board will vote on approval of the tools during the next meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Roberts attended the PTO Council meeting last night. He reported that the council is in support of the interventions that are being used to prevent the lifelong need for intervention. The council discussed including extended families in the growth plans of the students. Lisa Schwartz did a great job presenting an overview of the IB training and how it ties into common core.

Julie Mullen prepared a draft technology update where she mapped out where the technology is located within the district's schools. This will be shared with the Board in the near future.

Perry Sodwedel from CEC will perform a system audit for the district. The firm will look at what the district is doing as administrators/teachers and report on the areas of strength and opportunities for growth.

The Park District sent two intergovernmental agreements, one for trees and one for irrigation. Dr. Roberts will review them and ask for approval at the next meeting.

## **BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Several Board members attended PTO meetings this month.

BOARD CONCERNS /  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Member Gates met with the general manager of the local COSTCO. The store is looking to partner with a school district. Approximately 40 employees would like to volunteer their time tutoring/mentoring and the store would like to donate supplies to the district. Dr. Roberts and Chris Jasculca will meet with the store manager to discuss the possibilities.

The Lincoln PTO discussed the possibility of expanding the Spanish Emersion program. Some parents at the meeting expressed concern about the lack of interest in expansion of the program and questioned why the district's interest in the program is limited to Lincoln School.

The Board was reminded that the growth models will be discussed at the Joint Conference. It was suggested that everyone who plans on attending the conference, review the session options in advance. They can then compare choices and ensure that a variety of topics are attended. It was recommended that they meet at the Emerald Loop on Wabash for lunch, and were asked to let the board secretary know if they would like to be included.

The IASB membership materials were distributed to the Board members. Member Gates will be sending a checklist out for members to use for voting purposes.

It was noted that ISAT scores go public tomorrow.

It was noted that the district may have a better change of receiving the IGIG grant if the district has support from the state representatives. It was agreed that President Barber will send a letter requesting support.

It was agreed that there is no need for Board members to attend Irving Schoolyard committee meetings until the Board determines how they wish to proceed with the project. O'Neill recommended that the district move forward with the playgrounds and deal with the parking and field separately.

Member Spatz will be attending the National Association for Young Children's Conference from November 6-10.

The joint facilities team met today. The second forum is scheduled for Saturday, November 10 at 10 a.m. at Beye School. Information on parking and traffic studies are expected to be available at that time.

Everyone was invited to the Collaboration for Early Childhood event on November 14 at 7 p.m., where Dr. James Heckman will be speaking on the importance of early childhood and how, when governing bodies look at it a little differently, they can make a difference. The event will be held at the Unity Temple.

It was noted that President Barber will not be in attendance at the November 13 meeting. The meeting will be led by Vice President Spatz.

## **BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT**

It was noted that the discussion on the Irving Schoolyard fulfilled the request for response to public comment.

BOARD RESPONSE  
TO PUBLIC  
COMMENT

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, President Barber declared the meeting adjourned at 11:40 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, November 13, 2012 beginning at 7 p.m. at the administration building located at 970 Madison Street.

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Board President

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Board Secretary