

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
Special Meeting June 3, 2015**

President Gates called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

Present: Spatz, Brisben, Spurlock, Gates, O'Connor, Datta, and Felton
Absent: None
Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Al Roberts, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Therese O'Neill, Senior Director of HR Steve Cummins, Senior Director of Special Services Mike Padavic, Senior Director of Administrative Services Felicia Starks Turner, Director of Technology Michael Arensdorff, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Carrie Kamm and Helen Wei, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

ACTION ITEMS

2.1

APPROVAL OF SUPERINTENDENT'S EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT AND MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR RELOCATION EXPENSES

ACTION ITEMS

Brisben moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, appoint Dr. Carol Kelley to Superintendent of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 to a term of three years effective July 1, 2015 in accordance with the terms of the Superintendent's contract and Memorandum of Understanding for relocation expenses.

President Gates explained the search process and timeline. He noted that the community was involved through public forums and an online survey. Additionally, the 10 board candidates were invited to participate in the interview process. The pool was narrowed down to six candidates who were all interviewed by the Board and three were brought back for additional screening. Once the candidate pool was narrowed down to one candidate, background checks and a site visit were conducted.

Vice President Felton introduced Dr. Carol Kelley as the candidate of choice. She reported that Dr. Kelley comes to Oak Park upon successful completion of her service as Superintendent of Schools for Branchburg Township School District, in New Jersey. Dr. Kelley received her bachelor's degree and Doctorate in Education from the University of Pennsylvania, and holds an MBA from the University of Virginia. Dr. Kelley is a former middle school teacher and principal in New Jersey, and served for three years as the Director of Curriculum and Instruction for Hunterdon Central Regional High School. Prior to her career in Education, Dr. Kelley was an engineer.

Each of the Board members commented, and Hazzard, Young and Attea were acknowledged for their assistance. It was noted that Dr. Kelley is an experienced instructional leader, and has experience with excellent teaching. Her collaborative style focuses on helping every child, and challenges the status quo.

Member Spatz reported that this is the third superintendent search that he has had the privilege to participate in. He reported that this was the strongest candidate pool and attributed that due to the fact that the Board held a closed search (confidential). He thanked Dr. Kelley for choosing Oak Park.

**APPROVAL OF SUPERINTENDENT’S EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT AND
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR RELOCATION EXPENSES** (Continued)

It was noted that Oak Park is a unique community that is very diverse and growing steadily. It was suggested that with her skillset, Dr. Kelley can make her mark in Oak Park.

Dr. Roberts reported that he had the opportunity to some time with Dr. Kelley today and he believes that she will be a wonderful fit. She will lead with integrity, and her collaborative approach will be appreciated.

Dr. Kelley acknowledged Bill Attea for guiding this process, and explained that today is not really about her. She shared that the district is about to do something incredible.

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Brisben, O’Connor, Felton, Gates, Datta, Spurlock and Spatz

Nays: None

Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Spatz declared the meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary