

**Official Minutes of the  
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,  
970 Madison Street, Cook County, Oak Park, Illinois  
April 27, 2010**

President Traczyk called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Present: Gates, Spatz, Reddy, Harton (6:37 p.m.), Barber, and Traczyk  
Absent: Clouser  
Also Absent: Superintendent Constance R. Collins  
Also Present: Director of Human Resources Trish Carlson, Assistant  
Superintendent of Finance and Operations Therese O'Neill,  
Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Kevin  
Anderson, Communications Coordinator Chris Jasculca, and Board  
Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

**Executive Session**

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

Gates moved, seconded by Barber, that the Board of Education move into executive session. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Barber, Spatz, Reddy, Harton, and Traczyk  
Nays: None  
Absent: Clouser  
Motion passed.

**Open Session**

OPEN SESSION

Reddy moved, seconded by Barber, that the Board of Education move into open session at 7:03 p.m. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Reddy, Barber, Gates, Spatz, Harton, and Traczyk  
Nays: None  
Absent: Clouser  
Motion passed.

**1.1.0 Approval of Minutes of April 6, 2010**

APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES OF APRIL  
6, 2010

Harton moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the April 6, 2010 meeting. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Harton, Gates, Spatz, Barber, Reddy, and Traczyk  
Nays: None  
Absent: Clouser  
Motion passed.

### **1.2.0 Approval of Minutes of April 13, 2010**

Barber moved, seconded by Harton, that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the April 13, 2010 meeting. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Barber, Harton, Gates, Spatz, Reddy, and Traczyk  
Nays: None  
Absent: Clouser  
Motion passed.

The secretary was asked to prepare future minutes in the order of discussion and not in the order listed on the agenda.

### **1.3.0 Approval of Minutes of April 20, 2010**

Reddy moved, seconded by Barber, that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the April 20, 2010 meeting. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Reddy, Barber, Gates, Spatz, and Traczyk  
Nays: None  
Abstained: Harton  
Absent: Clouser  
Motion passed.

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Special Reports**

John Gann invited the Board to attend the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Fun Run on May 8 at 8 a.m. Gann read the names of the third and sixth grade poster contest winners. Brianna McCormick, one of the winners, was in attendance and was introduced. She was presented with a shirt and a copy of the poster.

### **Action Items**

#### **4.1.1 Approval of Consent Agenda**

President Traczyk read the items on the consent agenda. Harton moved, seconded by Reddy, that the following items be approved on the consent agenda.

3.1.1 Bill Lists and Related Reports

3.2.1 Personnel Action as presented

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Harton, Reddy, Gates, Barber, Spatz, and Traczyk  
Nays: None  
Absent: Clouser  
Motion passed.

Kasey Hayward was introduced as the new consumer education teacher for Brooks and Julian, and Allison Lamb was introduced as the new first grade teacher at Mann.

#### **4.2.2 Staffing Recommendations**

Spatz moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education approve the 2010-2011 district certified staffing plan as presented. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Spatz, Reddy, Harton, Barber, and Traczyk  
Nays: Gates  
Absent: Clouser  
Motion passed.

Gates expressed his concern that the District continues to bring forward recommendations for additional administration.

#### **4.2.3 RIF of Support Staff**

Reddy moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education approve and adopt resolution “A” authorizing notice of termination of employment at the end of the school year and on-renewal of employment in the 2010-2011 school year of the educational support employees identified. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Reddy, Spatz, Gates, Harton, Barber, and Traczyk  
Nays: None  
Absent: Clouser  
Motion passed.

#### **4.2.4 Approval of Administrative Contracts**

Reddy moved, seconded by Barber, that the Board of Education approve the administrative employment contracts as presented. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Reddy, Barber, Gates, Harton, Spatz, and Traczyk  
Nays: None  
Absent: Clouser  
Motion passed.

#### **4.2.5 Approval of Administrative Support Staff Contracts**

Barber moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education approve the administrative support employment contracts as presented. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Barber, Gates, Harton, Spatz, Reddy, and Traczyk  
Nays: None  
Absent: Clouser  
Motion passed.

### **4.3.1 Adoption of Policies**

Reddy moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education adopt the following policies:

Instructional Digital and Analog Video policies  
Copyright policy

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Reddy, Gates, Barber, Harton, Spatz, and Traczyk

Nays: None

Absent: Clouser

Motion passed.

### **4.3.2 Approval of Technology Plan**

Reddy moved, seconded by Harton, that the Board of Education approve the first year of the District's Technology Plan for implementation during the 2010-2011 school year as presented and discussed at the April 13, 2010 Board meeting. The materials, professional development, and technology support positions will be paid for using district funds and IDEA ARRA funding in the amounts of \$696,293 and \$159,120, respectively. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Reddy, Harton, Gates, Barber, Spatz, and Traczyk

Nays: None

Absent: Clouser

Motion passed.

### **4.3.3.2 Election of Board Officers**

Reddy nominated Peter Traczyk as president from April 28, 2010 until April 26, 2011. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Reddy, Barber, Harton, Spatz, and Traczyk

Nays: None

Absent: Clouser

Motion passed.

Appreciation was extended to Peter Traczyk and Peter Barber for their leadership.

Harton nominated Peter Barber as vice president from April 28, 2010 until April 26, 2011. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Reddy, Barber, Harton, Spatz, and Traczyk

Nays: None

Absent: Clouser

Motion passed.

#### **4.3.3.2 Election of Board Officers (Continued)**

Gates nominated Sheryl Marinier as secretary from April 28, 2010 until April 26, 2011.  
Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Reddy, Barber, Harton, Spatz, and Traczyk  
Nays: None  
Absent: Clouser  
Motion passed.

#### **6.1.1 Approval of Board Calendar for 2010-2011**

Gates moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education approve the following meeting dates for regular meetings of the Board. These meetings are scheduled to usually take place at the Administration Building on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. unless posted otherwise. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Reddy, Barber, Harton, Spatz, and Traczyk  
Nays: None  
Absent: Clouser  
Motion passed.

#### **District Activity**

DISTRICT ACTIVITY

#### **STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE**

Chris Jasculca presented a brief Strategic Plan update focusing on areas that have seen action since the last report in December 2009. Due to timing, some questions were not able to be addressed at the table. It was agreed that answers to these questions will be included as an addendum to the minutes on the Web site.

Jasculca reported that discussions have taken place regarding the ombudsman position, suggesting that community input on the topic might be helpful. It was suggested that the research that drove the original discussion be made clear so the community understands the need.

Jasculca reported that all Strategic Plan updates will be available to the new superintendent, and can be used to assist that person in mastering the progression of the plan. It was suggested that the search firm should also assist in this process.

The next Strategic Plan update is scheduled for June 22.

## **SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH UPDATE**

It was reported that the search firm of Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates, Ltd. is moving forward with the superintendent search process. Individual groups within the community have been invited to a focus group meeting and invitations have been distributed announcing the open forums scheduled for May 4 and 5. The Board members were encouraged to bring their personal calendars to the May 6 special Board meeting.

It was suggested that the whole Board should be kept informed regarding all information being released to the public on this topic.

## **PAINTING BID**

O'Neill reported that the request for painting bids was made on April 7, with eight bids received. This year, the department of buildings and grounds is recommending the contract be awarded to National Decorating. Work is scheduled to take place over the summer, with an anticipated completion date prior to school opening in the fall.

### **Board of Education Priorities**

## **DISCUSSION ON COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

BOARD OF  
EDUCATION  
PRIORITIES

The Board agreed that the Committee appointments should remain the same.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Chris Jasculca read the Superintendent's Report in the absence of Dr. Collins.

SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT

The Brook's Best Buddies program attended an event at Brookfield Zoo, and staff member Susan Diehl received an award for adviser of the year. It was the first time that this honor has been awarded to a middle school chapter.

The district is still soliciting feedback on the security camera plan and policy. The community is being encouraged to visit the district's Web site to review the draft policy as well as a letter from Dr. Collins.

The Oak Park Regional Housing Center conducted presentations for students at Longfellow and Mann last week in conjunction with Money Smart Week.

District 97 schools held numerous Earth Week activities last week.

Mike Padavic shared the data collected via the special education parent/guardian online survey with the Parent Advisory Committee and the district's special education staff this week. The results from the survey will also be shared with the Board as part of the special education report being presented in June. A total of 133 people responded to the survey with the overall results of the survey being positive.

## **Superintendent's Report** (Continued)

The district will be holding kindergarten and new family registration in the Board room of the administration building on May 4 from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. and May 5 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

OPRF High School is hosting a parent forum on May 19, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Below are details from the OPRF Web site:

### **Citizens' Council plans Teen Alcohol/Substance Use Parent Forum May 19**

April 26, 2010 - In an effort to increase awareness of issues related to alcohol and substance use by our communities' teens, the Oak Park and River Forest High School Citizens' Council, in conjunction with the high school, is sponsoring a Teen Alcohol and Substance Use forum from 7 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, May 19, in the Auditorium.

Everyone interested in learning more about the issue is encouraged to attend, including OPRFHS and all other high school and community middle school students and their parents and guardians; members of the District 200, 90 and 97 Boards of Education, and representatives of school, community and social service organizations.

At the Forum, OPRF administrators and representatives from the Oak Park and River Forest police departments, the Oak Park Public Health Department, the Township Youth Services of Oak Park and River Forest, and several key social service agencies will define the issues in a panel-style format and field questions from attendees. A parent and OPRF graduate who have weathered and overcome alcohol and substance use-related issues will also speak.

"The purpose of this Forum is to create an awareness of the extent and impact of teen alcohol and substance use issues beyond our 40-member group," says Citizen's Council Co-Chair Iris Saavedra, a member of the advisory group's 6-person Subcommittee on Substance Use and Prevention. "As we gather experts from our school and communities to educate us about this important and pervasive issue, we hope the information and data shared will serve as a call to action. We also hope to create a grass root initiative that helps raise parental and community awareness about the problem, as well as about what resources are available. We want to help make our schools and community healthy and safe environments for all our children."

The PTO Council held its monthly meeting last night at Hatch School. Attendees received updates from Jim Gates, Chris Jasculca and Dr. Collins. There were also several topics discussed, including the district's technology plan and the issue of equity among the schools and PTOs. Therese O'Neill was scheduled to speak to the group about the district's finances, but had a conflict. The council expressed interest in having her present at their May meeting.

**Board Concerns**

It was reported that the link to the Hazard Web site is not functional.

O'Neill offered to respond to a request for cost and expense data on the all-day kindergarten program, including projections. She will have this data available in May or June.

Carlson agreed to update the Board with teacher comparatives every year. Thanks was extended to Carlson and the hiring team for their focus on diversity.

Traczyk reported that he will try to work with Dr. Collins and the Board secretary to reorganize the Board meeting agendas to follow the new format.

Traczyk reported that the Village is not responding to his requests to discuss the crossing guard issue. A Saturday meeting was suggested, as well as a suggestion to mail a letter to the Village outlining the Boards constraints.

A brief discussion took place regarding the district's Wellness policy.

Thanks was extended to the Education Foundation for the wonderful Staszak Dinner.

**Announcements**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Appreciation was extended to Anita Howard for performing the tasks of secretary during the last Board meeting.

The Board was reminded that the Ethnic Festival is this weekend, with the parade beginning at 10 a.m. President Traczyk will be present to introduce Dr. Collins, but will need to leave. The other Board members were instructed to meet at the same location as last year at 9:30 a.m.

The Board was reminded that the retirement dinner is this Thursday.

**Board Response to Public Comment**BOARD RESPONSE TO  
PUBLIC COMMENT

None

There being no further business to conduct, President Traczyk declared the meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The next special meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, May 6, 2010 beginning at 7 p.m. at the administration building located at 970 Madison Street.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be on Tuesday May 11, 2010 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