

**Official Minutes of the  
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,  
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois  
May 31, 2011 Board Retreat**

President Barber called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Present: Barber, Sacks, Reddy, Gates, Spatz, O'Connor and Traczyk

Absent: None

Also Present: Superintendent Al Roberts, IASB representative Jeff Cohn, Multicultural Center Coordinator Lynn Allen, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

Lynn Allen shared a brief description of the Multicultural Center. Allen left the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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Sacks moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 7:08 p.m. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Sacks, Reddy, Gates, Barber, O'Connor, Sacks, and Traczyk

Nays: None

Also present: Dr. Roberts, Jeff Cohn and Sheryl Marinier

Motion passed.

OPEN SESSION

**OPEN SESSION**

Traczyk moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education move into open session at 8 p.m. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Traczyk, Gates, Reddy, O'Connor, Spatz, Sacks, and Barber

Nays: None

Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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None

BOARD RETREAT

**GOAL SETTING**

Jeff Cohn led the group in a discussion on guiding principles and essential board process procedures.

**PURPOSE OF THE GOVERNANCE REVIEW:**

Does the Board achieve the following?

1. Clearly articulate the community's educational aspirations and values and formulate a clear vision for the school district.
2. Govern with a focus on the future, on results, and on continuous improvements.
3. Encourage collective decision making and diversity in view points.
4. Respect the distinction between Board and Superintendent.
5. Pursue rigorous and continual improvement in its governance effectiveness.

## ESSENTIAL BOARD PROCESS PROCEDURES

Do we have agreement?

- ✓ Placing items on board agenda
- ✓ Participating during public forums
- ✓ Asking agenda questions
- ✓ Communicating with Superintendent
- ✓ Communicating with members
- ✓ Communicating with staff
- ✓ Visiting campuses
- ✓ Responding to complaints
- ✓ Communicating with the media
- ✓ Communicating with the public
- ✓ Orienting new members
- ✓ Conducting closed sessions
- ✓ Celebrating our success

Members were reminded that questions regarding Board materials should be sent to Dr. Roberts with the individual Board members copied on the request. The Board agreed that the president of the Board is the voice, and communication to the staff goes through Dr. Roberts.

Cohn shared the Annual Board Reflection Workshop packet. He split the Board into two groups (members Barber, Sacks, Traczyk and Reddy were in group one, and members Spatz, O'Connor, Gates and Dr. Roberts were in group two). The teams were directed to identify the top five unresolved issues and top five district-level operational priorities. The following list was compiled after the Board regrouped.

### Clean Ups

Claim / LAC

FACE-IT

SRO/Crossing Guards

Strategic Plan

Facilities Planning

### Operational

Analysis of compensation models

Decision making dashboard

Communication with community, referendum and beyond

Shared Services with I-Gov

### Vision (Common Trends)

Early Childhood

Outdoor Learning Environments

Data driven decisions, monitoring and innovation

Keeping our kids in our community (therapeutic day school, alternative school)

Dr. Roberts updated the Board on the possibility of piloting the Fast ForWord program during the summer.

**BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

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TO PUBLIC  
COMMENT**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, President Barber declared the meeting adjourned at 10:17 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, June 14, 2011, beginning at 7 p.m. at the district office located at 970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois at 7 p.m.

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Board President

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Board Secretary