

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
Meeting September 23, 2014**

President Spatz called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Spatz, Felton, Sacks Gates, Traczyk, Brisben, and O'Connor (6:32 pm)
Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Al Roberts, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Therese O'Neill, Senior Director of Policy, Planning and Communications Chris Jasculca, Senior Director of Special Education Mike Padavic, Senior Director of HR Steve Cummins, Senior Director of Administrative Services Felicia Starks Turner, Directors of Curriculum and Instruction Carrie Kamm and Helen Wei, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Sacks moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 6:30 p.m. to discuss (Purchase or Lease of Real Property 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5), Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), Collective Negotiations 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2). Roll call vote.

Ayes: Sacks, Felton, Traczyk, Gates, Brisben and Spatz

Nays: None

Absent: O'Connor

Motion passed.

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Traczyk moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education move into open session at 6:58 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement. The meeting was reconvened at 7:02 p.m. A slideshow of photos from the Irving and Julian visits from NEA president, Lily Eskelsen Garcia ran during the meeting.

SPECIAL REPORTS

SPECIAL REPORTS

PRESENTATION OF FY2014 AUDIT

Kelly Kirkman, Director and David Paul, Manager of McGladrey, LLP came to the table with Therese O'Neill. Kirkman noted that for the second year in a row, the district received an unqualified audit, which is the highest rating, indicating that there were no major findings. Kirkman reported that overall, the figures were flat compared to last year, with a surplus of only about \$1,000. It was reported that the Child Nutrition Cluster was examined in detail this year as part of the Federal Program Compliance Report.

O'Neill reported that commencing with the FY 2014 audit, the directorship changed. This was due to the renewal of the audit agreement with McGladrey, LLP and in accordance to the Board of Education procedures. Brian Guastella was replaced with Kelly Kirkman and, in fact, the entire audit was conducted by a completely new team of individuals. O'Neill explained that the RFP was originally a three year cycle with a possible extension to five years.

O'Neill expressed appreciation to the Business Office staff for their hard work and dedication. The audit will be officially adopted at the October 7, 2014 meeting.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE REPORT

Kim Perkins and John Gatta from ECRA came to the table with Felicia Starks Turner. Gatta shared a presentation demonstrating how District 97's 2006-2012 ISAT scores compared to the state averages. He explained that educators need to determine how they want the children to look when they leave the district and then work backwards to determine how they help them to get to a successful end. Gatta recapped recent history; Race To The Top, Illinois NCLB Waiver, etc. that got the district to where it is currently. Additionally, he noted that the Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) requires all schools in Illinois to incorporate measures of student growth into the principal and teacher evaluation system.

Gatta noted that in 2013, ISBE raised performance expectations to improve alignment of the ISAT test scores with the more rigorous Common Core State Standards. He shared data that indicated that the District 97 Reading and Math meets/exceeds scores are widening the gap over Illinois standards. Additionally, he shared the Performance in Context (adjusted status) that compared the performance of each district to a state benchmark after adjusting for district characteristics that may impact district outcomes. The following characteristics were accounted for in the adjusted status model;

- District-type
- District enrollment
- Percentage race/ethnicity
- Percentage limited English
- Proficiency
- Percentage low-income
- Percentage mobility
- Geographic location
- Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) per pupil

He noted that the district has an achievement status gap, not a growth gap. He reported that every subgroup of children is growing, which he noted is not typical.

Perkins explained the reports that are available for the principals and school staff to help them identify what is taught, how it is taught, and the relationship between the teachers and children. ECRA has also been working on principal evaluation tools, and goal setting using student achievement. ECRA will continue to support administration with data analysis, new portal resources, and support principal and teachers evaluations where appropriate. Additionally, he reported that administrative goal setting has been discussed. Perkins reported that the district will receive three reports each year, in the fall, winter and spring.

Dr. Roberts explained that if the district uses best practice in every classroom every day, students will receive the support they need to narrow the gaps. He reported that the district is reviewing the practices that yield the best results. Dr. Roberts reported that the district is taking the goals for the past years, reviewing them and considering the progress. The evaluations will be divided up to make sure they are done on time and with fidelity, with updates to the Board on a regular basis.

Board questions and comments included interest in how the district can close the gaps, and hearing about the plan for administrators to use this data to isolate some of the past issues. It was noted that the district is getting the most out of the assessments that it is offering.

The following questions were asked;

- What are the areas that the district is proudest of?
- What are the areas that the district is focused on improving in the 2014-15 school year?

STUDENT PERFORMANCE REPORT (Continued)

- Could we get the following data at a subsequent meeting in 2014?
- Has ECRA released how they calculate growth?
- What is the performance of the category for students who are *both* low-income and African American?
- What is the performance of the category for students who are low-income, African American and male, and how does it compare to other subgroups?

Additionally, information was requested on student growth comparing the district's growth levels to growth nationally, and comparing the growth of the District 97 students this year to last year. Long-term growth data was also requested.

Interest was expressed in knowing the plans for releasing the 5Essentials data, noting that it will appear on the district report card released by ISBE at the end of October, 2014.

It was noted that some of the slides from the Student Performance PowerPoint presentation will be shared during the next FORC meeting, and it was suggested that Mr. Gatta be invited to speak to the FORC Committee. Concern was expressed about PARCC replacing MAP. It was noted that MAP will still be used to assess the younger children.

The Board was reminded that CLAIM will be hosting a legislative forum on October 8, 2014 where Senate bill 16 will be discussed. Interest was expressed in knowing how typical the districts characteristics are when the student population has been factored in.

It was noted that principals, superintendent evaluations and PERA are all using older data because it is not available until August. The Board evaluation committee was asked to take this into consideration and consider creating a policy. It was noted that the district has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Oak Park Teacher's Association to begin a PERA pilot.

Interest was expressed in seeing how the KIDS program is working, as it was noted that this program is not part of the ECRA data. Interest was expressed in supporting the early learners (pre-kindergarten) and closing the gap before it exists.

It was recommended that the ECRA PowerPoint be shared with the Ad Hoc Dashboard/Benchmark committee. Interest was again expressed in the need for the formulas used to calculate this data. Gatta assured the Board that he is committed to supplying this data.

Dr. Roberts assured the Board that the principals are working with Perkins to better understand student achievement, determine trends by grade level and individual classrooms. Additionally, administration is working on the framework of goals that focus on best practice and identifying the schedule for teacher evaluations. He noted that the plans for principal evaluations will be finalized next week. The goals will focus on student engagement, common core strategies, best practice, and IB at the middle school level. He expressed the need for immediate feedback, time for reflection, the language of high expectations, sequencing skills, and 21st century skill and mind sets.

Perkins and Gatta left the meeting. Starks Turner reported on Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). She reported that PARCC is a common set of computer-based K-12 assessments in English Language/Arts/Literacy and Math linked to the new, more rigorous Illinois Learning Standards. She noted that Illinois is currently in the process of creating K-2 assessments. PARCC is based on the core belief that assessment should work as a tool for enhancing teaching and learning.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE REPORT (Continued)

Starks Turner reported that the PARCC assessments priorities include;

- Determine whether students are college and career ready or on track to graduate
- Compare performance across states and internationally
- Assess the full range of the Common Core Standards, including standards that are difficult to measure
- Measure the full range of student performance, including the performance of high and low performing students
- Provide data during the academic year to inform instruction, interventions and professional development
- Provide data for accountability, including measures of growth
- Incorporate innovative approaches throughout the system

Starks Turner explained that the difference in PARCC over other assessment is that PARCC will help students know if they are on track to graduate, and ready for college / careers. It will enable teachers to have access to timely data to guide learning and instruction. It will help parents have clear and timely information about student progress, and help the state validate results that are comparable across borders.

PARCC aims to create a high quality 21st century, technology based assessment, support educators in the classroom and build a pathway to college and career readiness for all students, and advance accountability at all levels.

Discussion took place regarding the use of iPads for testing and the ability of a student to opt out of the testing process. Interest was expressed in seeing the results sheet that the parents will receive and how the performance level will be translated to show they are on track.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEMS

2.1.1 Approval of Minutes from the September 8, 2014 Special Board Meeting

Traczyk moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the September 8, 2014 special Board meeting.

Ayes: Traczyk, Felton, Sacks, O’Connor, Gates, Brisben, and Spatz

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

2.1.2 Approval of Minutes from the September 9, 2014 Board Meeting

Sacks moved, seconded by Traczyk, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the revised minutes from the September 9, 2014 Board meeting.

Ayes: Sacks, Traczyk, Felton, Gates, Brisben, O’Connor, and Spatz

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

2.2 Approval of Consent Agenda

Sacks moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the consent agenda as presented to the Board.

- 2.2.1 Bill List
- 2.2.2 Personnel Action
- 2.2.3 Out-of-State / Overnight Field Trips

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

2.3.1 Adoption of 2014-15 Budget

Felton moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, adopt its final 2014-15 budget in the total amount of \$92,635,696 as delineated in the memorandum to the superintendent dated September 23, 2014.

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

2.3.2 Resolution Declaring the Intent to Issue Working Cash Fund Bonds

Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the formal resolution declaring the intention to issue Working Cash Fund Bonds of School District Number 97, Cook County, Illinois, for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund of said School District, and directing that notice of such intention be published in the manner provided by law.

It was reported that the resolution currently has a blank where the amount should appear. The Board discussed the possibility of request up to \$10,000,000 in Working Cash Fund Bonds. This amount would cover all routine capital project (\$3,600,000) and the amount needed to meet the administrative office facilities needs. The Board was reminded that the full amount does not have to be taken; however, the Board does not have the option of increasing the amount at a later time. A public hearing will be held on October 21, 2014 to declare the amount and take action on November 4, 2014. Funding from other sources will also be considered.

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

2.4.1 Adoption of World Language Technology – Rosetta Stone License

Felton moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the purchase of the Rosetta Stone World Language program at the cost of \$151,188. This is a three year purchase of 2,500 language learning software licenses, primarily for students at the third to fifth grade level providing them additional Spanish learning time while utilizing their individually issues iPads. It was noted that 2,000 licenses will be used by students, and 500 for teachers and parents supporting home languages.

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

The Board took a break at 8:44 pm. The meeting was reconvened at 8:53 pm.

2.4.2 Possible Action Regarding TIF

Traczyk moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the following resolution;

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board of Education entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement (“Intergovernmental Agreement”) with the Village of Oak Park (“Village”) dated February 6, 1995, to help offset the impact of the Madison Street Business Corridor Tax Increment Financing District (“TIF District”); and

WHEREAS, the Village and the District amended the Intergovernmental Agreement in April, 2007; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the terms of the Intergovernmental Agreement as amended, the Village is obligated to make annual payments to the District; and

WHEREAS, on September 3, 2013, the District directed the Village to hold the payment due the District under the Intergovernmental Agreement as amended attributable to tax year 2011 and 2012 and, in separate communication 2013, in a segregated account to enable the Village and the District to reach an agreement on development of a new administrative center for the District; and

WHEREAS, to date, the Village and the District have not been able to reach agreement on development of a new administrative center for the District and the District must proceed with the plans for a new administrative center; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97, Cook County, Illinois as follows:

1. The Board directs the Village to release to the Board the funds it currently holds in the amount of \$1,988,249.49, which represents payment due the District by the Village pursuant to the Intergovernmental Agreement as amended for tax years 2011, 2012, and 2013 (“Payment”). All future payments due the District under the Intergovernmental Agreement as amended shall be paid to the District in accordance with the terms of the Intergovernmental Agreement as amended.
2. The Village shall release the Payment to the Board no later than October 7, 2014, unless prior to said date the Village and the Board enter into a Memorandum of Understanding setting forth the major terms of an alternate method of payment.

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

COMMITTEE / WORK GROUP REPORTS
2014 – 2015 PRIORITIES

COMMITTEE /
 WORK GROUP
 REPORTS

Common Core and IB Implementation
 No report was given.

Evaluations
 This group will be meeting later this week.

Financial Stability

It was reported that this group is waiting to meet after the next FORC meeting.

Administration Building and Facilities

The Board was reminded that action on this topic was taken during this meeting.

Equity and Excellence in Student Achievement

This topic was covered earlier in the meeting with reports from ECRA and on Student Performance.

Organization Structure

No report was given.

Contract Implementation and Maintenance

A draft contract and Intergovernmental Agreement list was distributed. It was agreed that it will be posted on the Website once it has been reviewed.

STANDING BOARD COMMITTEES

Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC)

It was reported that the Facilities Advisory Committee met recently. In a response to the Board's invitation to present on temperature monitoring, the FAC members expressed interest in presenting to the Board in November or December. Additionally, the committee will present a full report to the Board in March or April.

The FAC will be meeting on October 14, 2014 at Whittier School where they will tour the new ADA improvements.

It was reported that STR will validate the summer 2015 cost estimates and will consider bundling projects.

Financial Oversight and Review Committee (FORC)

The Financial Oversight and Review Committee will be meeting on October 6, 2014.

Committee for Legislative Action, Intervention, and Monitoring (CLAIM)

Invitations for the Legislative Forum on October 8, 2014 have been distributed. It was reported that all of the Senators invited will be in attendance.

OTHER ITEMS

AD HOC DASHBOARD/BENCHMARK COMMITTEE

It was reported that the Ad Hoc Dashboard/Benchmark Committee will be meeting on October 1, 2014 to finalize their presentation to the Board scheduled for October 7, 2014.

COLLABORATION IGA GOVERNING BOARD Update

It was reported that this group was unable to meet as planned due to a lack of a quorum. The meeting has been rescheduled for October 29, 2014. The Board was reminded to mark their calendars for November 19, 2014 for the annual Tri-board meeting.

CALENDAR AND MEETING EFFICIENCIES

Time was requested during the October 7, 2014 meeting to discuss this topic.

IGOV Update

An email invitation was sent to the Board members inviting them to participate in the IGOV gathering scheduled at Brooks Middle School on October 25, 2014. The event will be followed by the annual Elected Officials BBQ. It was reported that Gill Herman will be in attendance and

IGOV Update (Continued)

the focus of the meeting will be applying a Grand Rapids study to the Village that focuses on social, economical and environmental issues. It was noted that it is groundbreaking to have all boards working together on one goal.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

SCHOOL RECOGNITION APPLICATIONS

Board Secretary Marinier reported that this is an annual item that comes to the Board for action. The reports are completed by the principals and submitted to the State Board of Education. This item will return to the Board for approval during the October 7, 2014 Board meeting.

RESOLUTION APPOINTING LEGAL COUNSEL IN CONNECTION WITH TAX RATE OBJECTIONS

O'Neill reported that this is an annual item brought before the Board for approval. This item will return for action on October 7, 2014.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE PARK DISTRICT – FIELD MAINTENANCE

O'Neill reported that the district is considering a partnership with the Park District regarding grounds maintenance. She noted the need for a one-time expenditure for a tractor of \$15,000, and an annual expense of \$80,000 to \$90,000 for one full-time person and one part-time person to take care of the work. She reported that a line item has been added to the district's 2014-15 budget for this purpose.

O'Neill reported that the Park District has a different policy regarding pesticides and herbicides that will need to be considered; therefore, Policy 4:160 may need to be reviewed and revised. Additionally, discussion would need to take place with the Park District to clarify when the fields would be off limits to students for maintenance and repair. O'Neill reported that the district would see a difference in the mowing costs currently being paid to McAdams Lawn Care.

Board questions and concerns included a comment that the Park District currently has a turf specialist on the payroll. Additionally, concern was expressed about the need for clarity as to who will decide when students can be on the fields, and the need for field availability for physical education classes. A memo detailing the cost and savings was requested. The Park District was acknowledged for their generosity in the past. Interest was expressed in knowing if the Park District is collecting user fees that could offset some of the costs.

This item will return to the Board for action when details of the agreement have been negotiated.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Roberts reported that the state has changed some of the procedures this year regarding the election process. In the past, candidates were able to obtain information, applications, timelines, etc., from the Board Secretary. However, this year, the state has removed the Board Secretaries from this process. Candidates for the Board of Education will now need to communicate with the

Cook County Clerk's Office for all election needs, and encouraged to visit the Cook County Clerk's Website for forms and detailed instructions. Additionally, he noted that petitions for election will not be accepted in the district office as has been past practice. Petitions will be accepted in the Cook County Clerk's Office for **ALL** elected officials.

Lily Eskelsen Garcia, the NEA president, visited Irving and Julian schools today. President Spatz was acknowledged for his attendance. Dr. Roberts reported that president Garcia was very impressed with the activities taking place at our schools.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT (Continued)

Dr. Roberts expressed appreciation for the approval of Rosetta Stone, noting that it will help FLES teachers strengthen their programs.

Dr. Roberts reported that Helen Wei and Carrie Kamm are preparing professional development activities for teachers focused on standards based grading.

BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Member O’Connor reported that he will not be in attendance at the next Board meeting.

It was reported that the 5Essentials data will be released at the end of October. District 97 is one of a few districts in the neighboring area that participated this year.

It was noted that there is a link on the district Website for those interested in running for the School Board. Additionally, the IASB dinner scheduled for September 29, 2014 will include a briefing for potential candidates. The main topic for the evening will be “A Look at Governance Through Laughter”. Input was requested on other items that could be included on the Website about running for the School Board.

BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PREVIEW OCTOBER 7, 2014 AGENDA

The draft agenda for the October 7, 2014 meeting was reviewed and revisions were suggested.

It was agreed that some non-time sensitive reports may be presented to the Board under the Information only section of the agenda at one meeting, and summarized at the next meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

**EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

Traczyk moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 9:31 p.m. to discuss (Purchase or Lease of Real Property 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5), Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), Collective Negotiations 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)). Roll call vote.

Ayes: Traczyk, Gates, Sacks, O’Connor, Felton, Brisben and Spatz

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Sacks moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education move into open session at 11:13 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Spatz declared the meeting adjourned at 11:13 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, October 7, 2014 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Administration building located at 970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois.

Board President

Board Secretary