

**Official Minutes of the  
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,  
260 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois  
Meeting January 10, 2017**

President Gates called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Present: Gates, O'Connor, Spatz, Spurlock, Felton, Brisben, and Datta (6:19 p.m.)  
Absent: None  
Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Carol Kelley, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations  
Dr. Alicia Evans, Assistant Superintendent of HR Laurie Campbell, Chief Academic and  
Accountability Officer Dr. Amy Warke, Senior Director of Special Services Mike  
Padavic, Senior Director of Policy, Procedures and Communication Chris Jasculca, Sr.  
Director of Administrative Services Dr. Felicia Starks Turner, Senior Director of  
Technology Michael Arensdorff, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Carrie Kamm,  
and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Brisben moved, seconded by Spurlock, that the Board of Education move into Executive Session at 6:15 p.m. to discuss (Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance or Dismissal of Specific Employees or Legal Counsel for the District 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1), Setting of a price for Sale or Lease of Property 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(6). Roll call vote.

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

Ayes: Brisben, Spurlock, Spatz, Felton, O'Connor, and Gates  
Nays: None  
Absent at time of vote: Datta  
Motion passed.

**OPEN SESSION**

O'Connor moved, seconded by Brisben, that the Board of Education move into Open Session at 6:59 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement. The meeting reconvened at 7:05 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Marcus Croom, an Oak Park resident, expressed concern about students searching the Internet for information on the president elect and the new first lady, and what they might find there. He noted that it is typical for teachers to have student research the new leader and his wife; however, the results of a simple search and the images displayed, may not be appropriate for children to see. He suggested that the technology director consider ways to protect the children.

PUBLIC  
COMMENT

Chris Donovan, an Oak Park resident, expressed concern about the Madison Street Road Diet and the effect it would have on the safety of the children. He expressed concern about traffic jams if Madison Street is limited to one lane in each direction, and noted that traffic would shift causing more problems on the side streets. He explained the ordinance that regulates the plan and expressed concern that the process is not being followed. He shared that the meetings on this topic are difficult to identify and know when they will occur. Donovan asked the Board to seek more information on this topic before the Village moves forward with the plan. He indicated that a meeting might be scheduled for January 23, 2017. Donovan noted that this is important to the safety of the children, and asked the Board to request that the Village be more forthcoming. Donovan left a flyer for the Board members and asked them to respond to his request via email.

Anna Harlan, an Oak Park resident and district employee, shared that she grew up in the community and wished to speak in support of Cathy Hamilton. She was touched by the support of the staff and shared that she has been a very active member of the Lincoln community. Harlan described Hamilton as dedicated, even now during the uncertainty of her future with the district. She reminded the Board that Lincoln School is the only school in the district that offers a Spanish immersion program. She defined Hamilton as fair, and suggested that everyone wants her to stay. She asked the Board to reconsider Hamilton's employment. Additionally, Harlan noted her own support for the last referendum and wished the Board well with their efforts for this year.

Jonah Harlan, an Oak Park resident, and a freshmen at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities at St. Paul, spoke on behalf of Cathy Hamilton. He shared how Hamilton has influenced his life and explained that he recently earned his Eagle Scout title thanks to Hamilton's help and guidance.

**REPORTS****PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ON MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORT AND TITLE I**

Dr. Felicia Starks Turner, Eboney Lofton, Emily Fenske and Dr. Carrie Kamm came to the table. Dr. Kelley explained that this part of the meeting will be a work session for the Board. She noted that several questions had been received regarding Title I and she felt it was important to have a conversation on what a multi-tier system of support looks like.

The team reminded the Board that one of the goals for this year is to ensure that the District creates a positive learning environment for all scholars that is equitable, inclusive and focused on the whole child, with universal goals of ensuring that all scholars have access to programs and supports to prepare them for success in high school. Additionally, the team supports every scholar to be a critical thinker, ready to contribute to their community and each scholar is known for whom they are and their unique needs are met.

To accomplish the goals above, the team is using a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS), which is a coherent continuum of research based, system-wide practices to support a rapid response to academic and behavioral needs, with frequent data-based monitoring for instructional decision-making to empower each student to achieve to high standards.

Examples of the three tier system were shared, noting that every child receives services from tier 1. Student needing additional support will receive support in both tier 1 and tier 2, and the children needing even more support will receive services from tier 1, tier 2 and tier 3.

It was reported that Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) was established by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) to define, develop, implement, and evaluate a multi-tiered approach to technical assistance that improves the capacity of states, districts and schools to establish, scale-up and sustain the PBIS framework. Emphasis is given to the impact of implementing PBIS on the social, emotional and academic outcomes for students with disabilities.

Starks Turner explained that Title I is a supplementary federal funded program aimed to bridge the achievement gap for low-income students. Title I was first enacted in 1965 under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). ESEA was rewritten as No Child Left Behind (NCLB) in 1994 to improve fundamental goals of helping at-risk students. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) replaced NCLB on December 10, 2015. ESSA will be fully operational in school year 2017-2018. All of these initiatives continued to contain a Title I supplementary funding component.

She noted that the purpose of Title I is to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high quality education and reach, at a minimum, proficiency on challenging state academic achievement standards and state academic assessments. Schools with large concentrations of low-income students will receive funds to assist in meeting the students' educational goals by providing a continuum of supplementary services and resources. The number of low-income students is determined by the number of students enrolled in the national free and reduced lunch program.

Starks Turner explained that Title I funds can only be used for curriculum, instructional activities, counseling, and parental involvement. NCLB grant funds must only be used to supplement (add to) any state or local funds used to provide services, staff programs, or materials. NCLB grant funds cannot be the sole source of funding or used to pay for things that would otherwise be paid for with state or local funds. It was noted that District 97 is a targeted assistance district. Funds are used to provide supplemental educational services only to the select group of students identified as having the greatest need for special assistance, ensuring that all students, particularly students who are low-achieving, demonstrate at least proficient levels of achievement on the Illinois Learning Standards. At least 40 percent of the students enrolled in the school, or residing in the attendance area served by the school, must be from low-income families.

Dr. Kelley explained that there has been some confusion on the purpose of Title I. She noted that all schools are called to help all students. All schools are switching to MTSS, and the District's budget supports students not attending a Title I school to get the support they need. For schools with Title I funding, the school must spend above and beyond to support the students at that school.

Board comments included interest in scheduling more training sessions like this one as it approaches the seating of a new Board. It was suggested that NCLB was established in 2004, not 1994 as indicated in the presentation. Additionally, it was noted that Title I is less than one percent of the district's overall budget. A one page summary of the report was suggested for sharing with the community. It was suggested that this report be shared with the stakeholders.

**3.1.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 30, 2016 JOINT BOARD MEETING**

Gates moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the revised minutes from the November 30, 2016 joint Board meeting. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

**3.1.2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 19, 2016 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

Gates moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the revised minutes from the December 19, 2016 special Board meeting. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

**3.1.3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 20, 2016 BOARD MEETING**

Gates moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the minutes from the December 20, 2016 Board meeting. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

**3.2 APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

Spatz moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the consent agenda as presented.

3.2.1 Approval of Bill List

3.2.2 Approval of Personnel

3.2.3 Approval of Donation from Lincoln School PTO

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

**3.3.1 APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR AND REQUIRING THE SUBMISSION OF THE PROPOSITION OF ISSUING \$57,500,000 SCHOOL BUILDING BONDS TO THE VOTERS OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 97, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AT THE CONSOLIDATED ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THE 4<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2017**

Brisben moved, seconded by Spatz, That the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the resolution providing for and requiring the submission of the proposition of issuing \$57,500,000 School Building Bonds to the voters of School District Number 97, at the consolidated election to be held on the 4th day of April, 2017, as presented. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

**3.3.2 APPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR AND REQUIRING THE SUBMISSION OF THE PROPOSITION OF INCREASING THE LIMITING RATE FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 97, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, TO THE VOTERS OF SAID SCHOOL DISTRICT AT THE CONSOLIDATED ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THE 4<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2017**

Spatz moved, seconded by Brisben, That the Board of Education of Oak Park School District 97, approve the resolution providing for and requiring the submission of the proposition of increasing the limiting rate for School District Number 97, Cook County, Illinois, to the voters of said School District at the consolidated election to be held on the 4th day of April, 2017, as presented.

It was noted that the Board is asking for a one percent increase and requesting that the administration take the necessary steps to get the operating fund question on the ballot before this one. Roll call vote.

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

**3.3.3 APPROVAL OF BUDGET AUTHORITY ADOPTION**

Gates moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, authorize the Superintendent of Schools to commence the preparation of the 2017-2018 budget in accordance with the proposed timeline as presented. Roll call vote.

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

**3.3.4 APPROVAL OF LEAP INNOVATION**

O'Connor moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the Brooks Middle School team to participate in Pilot Network Cohort 4. The contract not to exceed \$25,000. Roll call vote.

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

**3.3.5 APPROVAL OF SUCCESS FOR ALL YOUTH (SAY) DATA AGREEMENT**

Datta moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, enter into an agreement with Success For All Youth regarding data sharing for the purpose of building a community dashboard. Approval of this motion is contingent on review and subsequent approval by SAY. Roll call vote.

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

**SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

Dr. Kelley shared a status report on the goals "Big Rocks". She demonstrated Let's Talk on the Website and showed how all four key terms are present. By clicking on each goal, the user can pull up a description of the goal and share comments on each. She reported that Cab-Vaat (a committee of administrators) is responsible for the refinement of the work draft definitions. They are reviewing equity policies from other districts and will make a recommendation regarding an equity policy for District 97. She noted that one of the key actions to be taken this year is coherence across the schools. She shared that each school has a school improvement team and Dr. Kelley and Dr. Warke will start attending those meetings. Additionally, Dr. Kelley will plan future community conversations around this work. She is considering up to four meetings with community members and four meetings with students. She shared that during the next Institute Day, she plans to engage the staff in an activity related to the universal goals.

Dr. Kelley reported that this Board packet contains the confidential Phase II recommendation for the central office reorganization. She noted that this recommendation is based on the organizational audit done by an external evaluator last year.

Dr. Kelley shared that the CLAIM committee will be working with the Communities United group to plan an event called "Student's CLAIM your Voice" on February 9, 2017. This event will serve as a launch for Voices of Youth in Chicago Education (VOYCE). VOYCE is a training program for young leaders that helps students to feel empowered, valued, respected and heard by School Administration and in their communities. The speaker will be Carlil Pittman (waiting for confirmation), and District 200 has agreed to partner in the event. Participation from District 97 students will include the Jazz Band, Spoken Word Club and student volunteers. Additionally, Senator Lightford is expected to attend.

Member Spatz submitted two questions via email regarding excellence. Dr. Kelley indicated that this topic might be an example of another Board work session topic.

**BOARD ASSIGNMENTS**

STANDING BOARD COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORT FOLLOW UP

**FORC**

The next FORC meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2017. It was reported that the previous FORC chairperson has stepped down and the committee will need to send out a call for new members.

## STANDING BOARD COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORT FOLLOW UP (Continued)

### CLAIM

The next CLAIM meeting will be held on January 12, 2017. They will be discussing priorities for legislative focus and monitoring, and the need for some revisions to the committee charge.

### FAC

The FAC committee will be meeting on January 17, 2017. It was suggested that the Board give this committee a heads up about the Madison Street Diet conversation.

### INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND LIAISON REPORT FOLLOW UP EVALUATION COMMITTEE

It was reported that the committee agreed to use the same rubric as last year, but tailor it to match Dr. Kelley's goals. The committee has communicated with the company that created the rubric and it was agreed that they will offer a training session for the Board during the February 14, 2017 Board meeting.

### BENEFITS COMMITTEE

The Benefits committee met today and is scheduled to meet again next week.

### CALENDAR COMMITTEE

It was noted that the Board will discuss the calendar later in this meeting.

### IGOV

It was reported that the Candidate Workshop has been rescheduled from January 21, 2017 to March 4, 2017. The meeting will take place at the Austin Gardens, and will include a brief financial overview for each governing body. A template has been created and needs the actual data inserted. It was agreed that the template will be sent to Dr. Kelley for completion. Concern was expressed that the original slide deck did not do a good job of explaining District 97's financial concerns.

The next meeting of IGOV is scheduled on January 28, 2017.

### COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

An email will be sent out on Friday requesting applications for this committee. Additionally, member Spurlock has been spreading the word around town and on the Internet.

### REFERENDUM DISCUSSION

It was reported that the slide deck is being modified to be used at upcoming forums to help the community understand the urgency of this request. The Board participated in a brief discussion about changes to the slide deck and were asked to send their comments and suggestions to the Referendum team (member Brisben, Dr. Warke, Dr. Kelley, Chris Jasculca and Saad Bawany).

It was noted that the District 97 Board Candidates special briefings are scheduled on January 13, 2017 and January 28, 2017 at the district office.

### RETREAT PLANNING UPDATE

A draft agenda for the January 30, 2017 Board retreat was shared. Dr. Kelley reported that Dr. Alson, the facilitator for the retreat, plans on focusing on the Board's goals (monitoring and progress), an article discussion, and the Board's work plan as it relates to the Board's goals. It was agreed that a discussion on onboarding will need to wait until the next retreat.

It was agreed that the mid-year feedback discussion did not need to occur. It was noted that if the Board expressed interest in discussing the Superintendent's evaluation, it would need to be done in closed session.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

#### PHASE II – CENTRAL OFFICE REORGANIZATION

Dr. Kelley reminded the Board that they received the final audit report at the last Board meeting. Based on that report, she shared her recommended organizational structure for the next school year, and at an upcoming Board meeting, the Board will be asked to approve that structure. She noted that it is a reorganization, and in some positions it would be changing of individuals.

ADMINISTRATIVE  
ITEMS

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN VILLAGE OF OAK PARK AND DISTRICT 97 FOR HOLMES SCHOOL

Dr. Evans reported that the Village has not had a discussion on this topic and has not communicated any direction to the District 97 attorneys. Communication was sent to the Village today to request that this process move forward. It was noted that the shared agreement was written by our attorney and modified by the Village; however, the district is trying to change it to an easement and split the two agreements apart. Dr. Evans was asked to communicate with the Village and let them know that the District 97 Board would like to take action on this item at their next meeting scheduled on January 24, 2017.

### ABATE WORKING CASH FUND

Dr. Evans noted that this request is regarding the \$6,000,000 received from DSEB in December. She explained that this resolution will be necessary to move the funds so the money can be spent. A brief discussion took place regarding the need to then transfer the funds to the Capital Fund for clarity. It was agreed that Evans will make the adjustment.

### CHAPMAN AND CUTLER ENGAGEMENT LETTER

Evans explained that to ensure that the lending rate question and paperwork for the referendum appear on the ballot correctly, William Blair with assistance from Chapman and Cutler are reviewing the documents at a fee of \$5,000. This item will return to the Board for action on January 24, 2017.

### 2018-2019 CALENDAR DISCUSSION

Laurie Campbell recognized the members of the Calendar committee for their efforts on this project, and reported that the committee tried to create a calendar that aligned with the major breaks in the District 200 calendar. Additionally, the committee gave thought to professional development, testing needs, and parent teacher conferences. She noted that once again, election days would be “no attendance” days.

Campbell reported that two members of the Calendar committee were inadvertently excluded from the planning meetings. Because of that, the committee is scheduled to reconvene on January 25, 2016 and approval of the calendar will be postponed until February 14, 2017 to allow their voices to be heard.

Board comments included interest in seeing a list of dates that do not coincide with the District 200 calendar.

### CONCLUDING ITEMS

#### BOARD REMARKS

Member Datta will be traveling on January 24, 2017 and will need to attend the meeting via telephone. Additionally, she will be absent from the February 14, 2017 meeting. On January 30, 2017, she will need to arrive late and questioned if she could participate by phone during her local business required commute.

President Gates asked if the Board would be interested in a Village presentation or question/answer session regarding student safety as it relates to the Madison Street Diet. It was suggested that the Village be asked to supply a written report on the topic. If additional information is desired, time could be allocated at a future meeting.

President Gates asked the Board to consider saying the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of the Board meetings. He noted that this request is in accordance with the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) and the other governing bodies within the Village of Oak Park. The Board discussed the request and several opinions were shared. Concern was expressed regarding the fact that the Board is unaware as to why a previous Board decided against saying the pledge in the first place, and that some people may be uncomfortable with the pledge implying deity. Suggestions included an alternative to invite alumni who have been, or are currently members of the military to be recognized at Board meetings.

#### BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

President Gates will draft a response to Mr. Donovan.

#### BOARD MEETING AGENDA FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The draft agenda for the January 24, 2017 Board meeting was reviewed and modifications were recommended.

Dr. Kelley reported that administrators met with the Oak Park Education Foundation (OPEF) regarding summer programming, and the Foundation indicated that it might be able to provide summer services for the upper grades. If the details can be resolved, this item will return to the Board for action on January 24, 2017.

#### PARKING LOT

A discussion item on this topic will be added to the January 24, 2017 Board agenda for discussion.

**BOARD SURVEY RESPONSE**

The results from the December 20, 2017 Board survey were distributed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, President Gates declared the meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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Board President

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Board Secretary