

Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97
260 Madison Street, Oak Park
December 12, 2023 Regular Meeting

This meeting was held in-person and virtually using Livestream. Board members met in person along with Administration.

President Kearney called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Present: Kearney, Moore, Ross Dribin, Kim, Burns, Spurlock, Hurd Johnson (left at 7:00pm)

Absent: None

Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Ushma Shah, Assistant Superintendents Dr. Luis De Leon & Patrick Robinson, Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations Dr. Sheila Johnson, Chief Learning Innovation Officer Dr. Eboney Lofton, Chief Technology Officer Michael Arensdorff, Senior Director of Communications Amanda Siegfried, Senior Director of Data Analytics Anna Colaner, Interim Senior Director Human Resources Dr. Christine Zelaya, Director of Finance Torrance Giles, Financial Consultant Robert Grossi and Lonya Boose Board Secretary.

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Spurlock moved, seconded by Kim that the Board move into executive session for the purpose of Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees, Collective Negotiating and Litigation.5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1)(2)(11) at 6:04 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

OPEN SESSION

President Kearney motioned that the Board move into Open Session at 7:04 p.m. All present members of the Board were in agreement. The Board convened in Open Session at 7:09 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

5. PUBLIC HEARING | 2023 Tax Levy

OPENING MOTION: Kim moved, seconded by Burns that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 moves into Open Session with a public hearing on the District's 2023 tax levy.

PUBLIC HEARING
2023 TAX
LEVY

CLOSING MOTION: Kim moved, seconded by Burns that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 moves to close the public hearing on the District's 2023 tax levy.

During the Levy Public Hearing, the following information was provided. The unaudited fund balance for FY23 was approximately \$42 million. The finance team recommended a 5% levy this year, with a total dollar amount of \$94,150,000.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Nancy Schroeder

Hi, my name is Nancy Schroeder, I have three children in District 97 and I am a member of the local Mom's Demand Action for gun violence prevention group. I am here today regarding the draft secure gun storage policy. Mom's Demand Action volunteers are allies and local survivors that gather for vigils and remembrance of victims of gun violence. In fact, vigils like this are happening all over the country. Gun violence is a tragedy. A pervasive problem as your resolution noted and increasingly becoming a problem in schools. I wanted to thank you for the care you took in researching this issue and drafting the policy this is a very big step in the right direction. I have two small things I want you to consider; 1. Referencing the Village's existing ordinance which says a gun must be secured and only the authorized user may know the combination and not in plain sight; 2. I recommend use of the words 'Secure Storage' in your resolution because gun by nature is not safe and furthermore, we are aiming to keep the gun secure and people safe. Again, thank you so much for your time in drafting this and thank you for the research and citations that was really lovely.

Robin Glover

Hi my name is Robin Glover and I am a very proud Alum of the district and a parent of two students at Whittier. I am here today to voice my concerns over the achievement gap of our black students to be frank and honest we are failing black children in our community. Dr. Shah, I am glad that you are planning to cover the Illinois Report Card tonight but I'd like to highlight a few key data points that stand out to me, first; 79% of our black students do not meet proficiency standards in language arts and second; 86% of our black students do not meet math proficiency standards in math. In comparison to other students, we have known for years now that the achievement gap is real and it persists. What disappoints me the most is that we are not all outraged. Trust me, I know how upset we get about the small stuff, this isn't small this is the type of problem that requires everyone in our community to come together as parents, teachers and administrators. We have tried to tackle this issue and I want to express my gratitude for that however it is clear to me that based on these latest results, what we are doing is not enough.

I am here today to request that we create a strategic plan with measurable outcomes that engage all of these parties and that I believe is the single most important issue we have at hand. More specifically, I have two requests; 1. Can we collect data on comparable schools that are addressing this challenge in order to see what works for them; 2. Can we engage parents of black children in our community in a more direct way at each school to allow for more meaningful sharing of ideas and gathering of support and understanding of the process for supporting our students in the best way possible. I want to be part of the solution and I am ready to roll up my sleeves to help. Thank you

Jane Zimmer

Hello, I have a son at Whittier and my son is black. I felt the need to say that just to clarify. I am here in partnership with Robin. We moved our family here last year so that our son can have a different experience than my experience growing up in school where you are regularly othered by teachers and classmates. We knew about the reputation of this area and the school district; we did as much research as we could being hopeful that the things that we read would be our son's experience here in Oak Park.

We are disappointed to not have the same experience and we are disappointed to see consistent results where there is this achievement gap with our black students. What are we doing to address these challenges with not only our black students but all students. We see this Gap dramatically with our black students and it's concerning in an area like Oak Park. I echo what Robin has said, we are here and need to change. Thank you.

Ranga Bodla

Good evening District 97 board members, you all heard me present before, I am Ranga a D97 parent and big clean air advocate as every child deserves a healthy school with clean air. Unfortunately, like they always have, families are getting sick from viruses that kids bring home. According to the most recent report 15% of District 97 students were chronically absent this school year. A small increase from previous years has nearly doubled in rate from 2019. 57.5% of teachers missed 10 or more days of school which is 22% higher than the state average. Our kids are sick, our teachers are sick and many in our community are sick and it's not getting better.

I understand the district is relying on outside experts to help make our schools safe and healthy however the experts clearly stated that cleaning the air inside schools is one significant way to achieve this goal. This is why the district happily accepted \$140,000 worth of equipment from IDPH this summer. For 6-months the district has promised to distribute this equipment to schools but you failed to do so. Instead of removing dust and viruses from the air, this equipment is collecting dust in storage. Meanwhile our teachers are ordering their own air purifiers for their classrooms and are getting thrown away. I know teachers who have had their personal air purifiers thrown away. The district could have installed air purifiers over the summer when kid's camps were restricted to stay inside due the wild fires. Why is the district actively choosing not to distribute equipment received from the state? You know what needs to be done to make our schools safe and healthy, by distributing these air purifiers before the winter break. Thank you.

Eric Gershenson

Good evening, my name is Eric Gershenson. It has been my privilege to have been involved with District 97 over many years. Most importantly as a proud parent and grand parent of district students. I have also coordinated successful district tax referenda efforts, been a member and president of the Board. I have chaired the Education Foundation, and was a founder and first chair of the Collaboration for Early Childhood.

I am here tonight to speak in support of the Board's consideration and hopefully passage of steps to assure that parents have access to information about safe gun storage. I can think of no more important part of the district's mission than doing everything possible to protect the safety of the students, their families and employees. Data clearly demonstrates that informing caregivers about how to securely store firearms can help prevent intentional and unintentional shootings and suicides. By doing so, District 97 would join districts throughout the US that have passed these resolutions.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of this issue.

7. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

SUPERINTENDENT
UPDATE

7.1 Migrant Family Outreach | A Welcoming Place for All

(Presented by Michael Arensdorff, Dr. Luis DeLeon, Patrick Robinson & Dr. Christine Zelaya)

An update and overview were provided to the Board and Community which included our **Commitment** to multilingual students and families; **Timeline** and **Collaboration; Welcoming, Programming and Staffing Support** along with **Celebrations** and **Learning**.

*The complete details are available by viewing the meeting livestream on the District 97 YouTube page.

7.2 Portrait of an Oak Park 8th Grade Graduate Update

(Presented by Dr. Ushma Shah, Dr. Ebony Lofton & Amanda Siegfried)

As part of the monthly Portrait update, Design leads provided detail on the following:

- Portrait timeline
- Affinity Space Feedback
- Portrait Feedback - Community Campaign
- Version 2 details
- Staff Sessions
- Next Steps

*The complete details are available by viewing the meeting livestream on the District 97 YouTube page.

7.3 Safety Update

(Presented by Dr. Felicia Starks Turner)

Dr. Starks Turner presented the Board, Superintendent and Community with a comprehensive safety readiness plan update which included the key areas below around district safety.

- Guiding Values and Beliefs
 - i love u guys Foundation
- Alignment
 - Board Police and District Practice
- Safety Data
 - Drills, Planning, Education and Prevention, Events and Programs
- Current Work and Timeline
- Additional Safety Topics
 - National Preparedness Campaign
- Future Work

*The complete details are available by viewing the meeting livestream on the District 97 YouTube page.

7.4 Illinois State Report Card Data (Student Outcomes-Attendance)

(Presented by Dr. Anna Colaner)

Dr. Colaner presented the next series of data aligned information to the Board, Superintendent and Community. This information provided a focus on Student Outcomes – Attendance. Below are key areas of the presentation.

SY23: Student Experience and Attendance

- Equity Alignment to Metrics
- Equitable Access
- What We Heard
- Student Experience and Attendance
- What Analytic Questions Will Assess our Progress?

*The complete details are available by viewing the meeting livestream on the District 97 YouTube page.

8. ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEMS

8.1 Consent Agenda

Spurlock moved, seconded by Kim that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 moves to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

- 8.1.1 Approval of Minutes from the November 14, 2023 Board Meeting
- 8.1.2 Bill List
- 8.1.3 Personnel
- 8.1.4 Approval : Irving PTO Outdoor Education Field Trip Donation
- 8.1.5 Approval : Revised OPTA Memoranda of Agreement | Wrestling (11.14.23)

Ayes: Kim, Kearney, Ross Dribin, Moore, Burns, Spurlock
Nays: None
Absent: Hurd Johnson
Motion passed.

8.2 Action

8.2.1 Approval: Draft SY25 School Calendar (11.14.23)

*Motion to postponed action was brought forward by Board President Kearney, seconded by Kim and approved by voice vote. Administration will provide update and request Board action at future meeting.

Ayes: N/A
Nays: N/A
Absent: Hurd Johnson
Motion Postponed

8.2.2 Approval: 2023 Tax Levy (11.14.23)

Spurlock moved, seconded by Burns that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 moves to approve the attached Certificate of Tax Levy and associated resolutions providing for adoption of the 2023 tax levy.

Ayes: Kim, Kearney, Ross Dribin, Moore, Burns, Spurlock
Nays: None
Absent: Hurd Johnson
Motion passed.

8.2.3 Approval: Draft Sustainability Policy (11.14.23)

Spurlock moved, seconded by Burns that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 moves to approve the Draft Sustainability Policy as presented.

Ayes: Kim, Kearney, Ross Dribin, Moore, Burns, Spurlock
Nays: None
Absent: Hurd Johnson
Motion passed.

8.3 Discussion and Action | Contracts and Agreements Over \$25,000

8.3.1 Authorization for Additional Funds Request | Community Mental health Board of Oak Park (11.14.23)

Spurlock moved, seconded by Kim Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 moves to approve the additional funding request of \$33,750 to ensure level funding for SY24 for a total investment of \$90,000.

Ayes: Kim, Kearney, Ross Dribin, Moore, Burns, Spurlock
Nays: None
Absent: Hurd Johnson
Motion passed.

8.3.2 Authorization to Execute Contract with Tyler Technologies for Electronic Time Keeping System (action 1.16.24)

Dr. Sheila Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations brought forward information to the Board on an Electronic Timekeeping System for the district. Below is a summary of the information presented. We are seeking approval to implement an electronic timekeeping system by Tyler Technologies.

Summary:

We currently use School ERP Pro as our financial system. School ERP Pro is one of the systems that

Tyler Tech offers. Integrating the time and attendance system with School ERP Pro eliminates dual entry between timekeeping and payroll. Streamlining the payroll process will reduce the volume of paper timesheets, automate timekeeping, reduce payroll errors, and improve efficiency.

The estimated total cost of implementing the electronic timekeeping system is \$92,246. The district will pay for the project with ESSER III funds. Administration will be seeking a motion at the January 16, 2024 Board Meeting.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

DISCUSSION
ITEMS

9.1 District 97 and Park District of Oak Park IGA 18-month extension (action 1.16.24)

Dr. Shah and Jan Arnold with the Park District of Oak Park brought forward a proposed IGA extension, continuing the partnership relationship between the Park District of Oak Park and District 97 for purposes of shared use of Facilities and Cooperative Planning.

Administration is requesting action on this IGA extension at the January 16, 2024 Board Meeting.

9.2 FY2025 Budget Authority (action 1.16.24)

Budget Authority

The Board of Education designates a person to prepare the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2024. Pursuant to the Illinois School Code, Section 105, ILCS 5/17-1 the Board of Education shall designate some person or persons to prepare a tentative budget. Therefore, the Superintendent of Schools should be authorized to commence the preparation of the tentative budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025; the budget shall be filed with the Secretary of this Board.

Budget Planning

In accordance with Board Policy 4:10 Fiscal and Business Management

Annually, the Board adopts a proposed budget calendar, indicating dates for presentation by the Superintendent of receipts, estimates, preliminary expenditure recommendations by funds, and major Board actions affecting the budget.

The proposed calendar for such preparation, presentation, and adoption will be as follows:

- July 9, 2024: Update Board on preliminary results of prior fiscal year and discuss macro-level issues regarding budget development
- August 13, 2024: present the tentative FY2025 Budget for Board discussion and authorize the tentative budget for public display and the publication of Notice of Public Hearing to be held on September 10, 2024
- August 14, 2024: Tentative budget placed on public display

- September 10, 2024: BOE Meeting to conduct public hearing and adopt the final budget

Based on the information above, it is recommended that the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to commence preparation of the FY2025 annual budget as of the date of this memo.

9.3 Draft Safe Gun Storage Policy First Read

Board President Kearney brought forward a Secure Gun Storage Policy draft for Board review.

Memorandum RE: Secure Gun Storage Policy

Providing District 97 students with a learning environment that ensures their emotional and physical safety is core to our values and mission. Our schools' ability to provide safe learning spaces is threatened by increasing levels of gun violence in schools and involving children. In response, school districts throughout the country are increasingly adopting policies that commit them to educating parents and guardians about the importance of secure gun storage as an important part of a broader strategy to minimize gun violence in schools and communities.

District 97 has been providing secure storage resources and information to parents and guardians over the recent past through a variety of information channels. This secure gun storage policy will ensure that District efforts continue over the long-term and affirm our commitment to the safety of our students.

*The entire draft policy is available by reviewing the December 12, 2023 Board packet materials.

9.4 Recommendations | Summer 2024 Programming (action 1.16.24)

(Presented by Dr. De Leon and Patrick Robinson, Assistant Superintendents of Schools)

Administration is reimagining summer learning. They have taken what was learned including data through traditional summer programming, and re-envisioned new programming. This presentation was presented to the Board, Superintendent and the Community with details in the following key areas:

1. SY23 Summer Programs Retrospective
2. SY24 Summer Program Models: Proposal
3. SY24 Summer Programs: Cost Proposal
4. Next Steps

Goals include:

- Incorporating Universal Design for Learning principals into the approach for summer learning
- Begin to engage in pilots aligned to the draft portrait
- Respond to what our data is telling us

*The entire presentation is available by reviewing the December 12, 2023 Board packet materials or the meeting livestream on the District 97 YouTube channel.

10. BOARD ASSIGNMENTS

BOARD
ASSIGNMENTS

No Updates, more information will be provided at the next regularly scheduled public meeting.

11. CONCLUDING ITEMS

CONCLUDING
ITEMS

10.1 Board Remarks

Happy Holidays to all District 97 Families, Students, Staff.

13. ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

All Six present members of the Board were in agreement that the meeting be adjourned. There being no further business to conduct, President Kearney declared the meeting adjourned by voice vote at 10:51p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary