

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97
260 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
January 15, 2019 Meeting**

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Spatz, Spurlock, Liebl, Breymaier (7:00 p.m.), Broy, O'Connor, Datta (7:00 p.m.)
Absent: None
Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Carol Kelley (by phone), Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Paul Starck-King, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Laurie Campbell, Senior Director of Policy, Procedure and Communications Chris Jasculca, Senior Director of Technology Michael Arensdorff, Senior Director of Special Services Ebony Lofton, Senior Director of Buildings and Grounds Jeanne Keane, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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Broy motioned, seconded by O'Connor that the Board move into executive session for the purpose of Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees or Legal Counsel for the District 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1), Collective Negotiations 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(2))

Ayes: Broy, O'Connor, Spatz, Liebl, and Spurlock
Nays: None
Absent: Datta and Breymaier
Motion passed.

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

O'Connor moved, seconded by Broy that the Board move into Open Session at 6:56 p.m. All members of the Board in attendance were in agreement. The meeting reconvened at 7:04 p.m. with all members of the Board present.

SPECIAL REPORTS

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LEARNING WALKS

Ebony Lofton came to the table. She explained that she will be reporting on the learning walks in Dr. Warke's absence this evening, as well as the fidelity checks which she oversees. Lofton explained that both processes can be completed by staff; learning walks focus on curriculum, while fidelity is specific to resources.

She explained that the work is an area of growth for the team and focuses on next steps. During their visits, teams are looking to identify what students do when learning is a challenge; if peer support occurs on a regular basis; if the students can connect what they are learning today to other learnings from the past, and if the students can make simple connections to recent learning.

Dr. Kelley explained that the teams walk into the classroom, observe students, and choose a few and talk to them. They might ask them to demonstrate what they have learned, and ask them why what they are learning is important. The team uses a Google form to record the findings. She explained that talking to the students is an important part of the process. Students need to be able to articulate and understand.

Lofton reported that the co-teaching fidelity tool is in active use. The tool has been shared with the administrative leadership team, as well as all special education and general education teachers touched by co-teaching. Data will be collected for all co-teaching teams (middle school and expansion schools) two times per year and for elementary teams (pilot expansion schools) monthly. The data in the aggregate is shared with principals and teachers following each data collection cycle. The intent is to address programmatic change in order to inform the provision of supports and researches.

LEARNING WALKS (Continued)

The design and utilization timelines, and data showing improvement was shared. Lofton reported that teachers are actively engaged, and visuals are being used. She shared that the goal is to think about programmatic change and provide additional resources.

Next steps were reported as the continuation of data collection and analysis in concert with quantitative student data; continued delivery of supports and professional learning; assessment of needs, and potential continuation of expansion.

Lofton reported that student are expressing interest in participating in the program again next year. She shared that principals made the recommendation for teacher selection, but it was not difficult to fill the positions.

Board comments included support for the elevated student learning, focus on student experience, and bringing uniformity to the classrooms. Support was also expressed in the tracking of data from a baseline.

When asked what percent of classrooms would be ideally co-taught, Lofton responded that another seven to 10 teachers would be ideal, if money was no object.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEMS

3.1.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 11, 2018 BOARD MEETING

Spatz moved, seconded by Broy, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the revised minutes from the December 11, 2018 Board meeting.

Ayes: Spatz, Broy, Breymaier, O’Connor, Liebl, Datta, and Spurlock
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

3.2 APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Spatz moved, seconded by Broy, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the consent agenda as revised at the table.

- 3.2.1 Approval of Bill List
- 3.2.2 Approval of Personnel (revised)
- 3.2.3 Acceptance of Disposal of Property

Ayes: Spatz, Broy, Breymaier, Liebl, Spurlock, O’Connor, and Datta
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

3.3.1 BUDGET AUTHORITY ADOPTION

Spatz moved, seconded by Breymaier, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to commence the preparation of the 2019-2020 budget in accordance with the proposed timeline as presented.

Ayes: Spatz, Breymaier, Broy, Liebl, Spurlock, Datta, and O’Connor
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

3.3.2 APPROVAL OF DEPOSITORIES AND SIGNATORIES

Datta moved, seconded by Breymaier, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approves the depositories and signatories as presented.

Ayes: Datta, Breymaier, Spatz, Broy, Liebl, Spurlock, and O'Connor
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

3.3.3 APPROVAL OF STUDENT REGISTRATION FEES

Spatz moved, seconded by Breymaier, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the Student Registration Fees and Lunch Fees as presented.

Ayes: Spatz, Breymaier, Datta, Liebl, Spurlock, Broy, and O'Connor
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

3.3.4 APPROVAL OF THE SUMMER PROGRAMMING 2019 RECOMMENDATION

Spatz moved, seconded by Datta, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, adopt the Summer Launch Program for the summer of 2019, not to exceed \$132,000 as presented on December 11, 2018 and as clarified in the update on December 21, 2018 and in the Board Packet.

Dr. Kelley shared that she sent the Board members a written response to the questions they had regarding this program. It was noted that the SMART Student Empowerment program has been successful in the past.

Lawrence explained that the District usually starts by inviting the students receiving Tier III interventions. The district will work with the E-Team to reach out to the families and exchange the program information. The vote before the Board this evening is happening earlier than usual so administration can try to hire the staff and advertise the program to the students earlier than in the past.

It was noted that Summer Launch and the SMART program are different. The district works together with the E-Team to fill the slots. This year, the SMART program, coordinated through Concordia University, will run at the same time as Summer Launch.

Lawrence explained that the Math Enrichment program will be marketed to a targeted audience with an attempt to improve equity. Personal phone calls will be made to parents. This program will be offered free to students who are eligible for free and reduced lunch.

Concern was expressed that the district might need to make sixth grade math more rigorous and not offer the summer math enrichment program. Dr. Kelley explained that the sixth grade math is rigorous and that the math enrichment program is offered to build confidence and allow students to be one step ahead, or freeing up their schedules for other options.

It was suggested that administration review the data to see what categories of sixth graders are ready for math enrichments, suggesting that the determining factor may not be those students paying for lunch, but those who might get additional help at home.

Interest was expressed in seeing data at the end of summer that indicates who is advancing and who is not. Concern was expressed about the lack of recess in the summer school schedule.

Interest was expressed in bussing kids from their home school to Holmes Elementary where the summer program will be held this year. It was suggested that the district track where the students are coming from. A survey was suggested to families that decline the invitation to summer school to determine their reason for not participating in the program. Dr. Kelley explained that Teaching and Learning is working with the Park District for wrap around services, and transportation will be provided for those who choose that option.

It was recommended that the sixth grade students be informed of their math placement before they need to sign up for summer school. Letting students know that they might be eligible for Math 7/8 before summer school enrollment might be helpful. Interest was expressed at looking at the cost of offering the same teacher student ratio to all students.

Interest was expressed in knowing where summer school programming fits into the vision. Dr. Kelley explained that the summer school program fits under Pillar one, Engaging Students in Learning. The Math Enrichment program is something that has always been offered in the past. She reported that what the E-Team did last year was pretty remarkable. Students are more enthusiastic about the program.

Ayes: Spatz, Datta, Breymaier, Liebl, Spurlock, Broy, and O'Connor
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

3.4.1 APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATOR TWO-YEAR EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT AND RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT

Spatz moved, seconded by Broy, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve a two-year employment contract for District Administrator Catherine Hamilton that will culminate with Ms. Hamilton's irrevocable resignation on June 30, 2020, in order to retire through the Teachers' Retirement System.

Ayes: Spatz, Broy, Datta, Breymaier, Liebl, Spurlock, and O'Connor
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Kelley reported that the pillar reports are very high level, identifying the tasks within each area, and she holds two different types of meetings to monitor progress. She noted that the three areas for Pillar One are co-teaching, strengthening literacy instruction K-5, and strengthening middle school instruction. Dr. Kelley explained that the report shared with the Board this evening offers information on the key tasks for the Pillar One specific goals and identifies progress. She reported that monthly one to one meetings are held with the champions to review department goals. Additionally, the Central Office Team is also monitoring the goals.

Dr. Kelley reported that the teachers are teaching the standards. They are all using the same units and designs. A report is scheduled for the March 12, 2019 Board meeting to update the Board on the status of the Middle School Math curriculum. She reported that Lisa Westman is working with the six grade pilot team, and offered to share a report on that topic in the March 12 update.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

LINCOLN / LONGFELLOW BID GROUP #3

Peter Kuhn from Bulley and Andrews came to the table and shared updates on each of the construction sites. He reporting that both sites are on track. He shared that the Longfellow students will be allowed to sign one of the structural beams.

Kuhn reported that Longfellow is currently about \$2,000,000 under budget and Lincoln is currently under budget by about \$400,000. He noted that some of this is due to holding off on windows, etc.

Kuhn reported that Bid Package #4 (landscaping, ADA, etc.) will be brought to the Board for approval in the near future.

Paul Starck-King reminded the Board that the original budget for the two projects was \$33,000,000. The team has been looking for areas of savings to get the total cost down to about \$30,000,000, and is making a substantial effort.

LINCOLN / LONGFELLOW BID GROUP #3 (Continued)

Bid package #3 will be up for action at the January 29 Board meeting. The Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC) has reviewed the package and had no questions.

UPDATE ON BOND RATING AND SALE

Starck-King reported that he expects to receive the updated bond rating by the end of this week. He encouraged the auditors to complete the audit process before the bond rating is reviewed because he expects it to have a positive impact on the decision. He reported that the Finance Oversight and Review Committee (FORC) will review the results during their next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 22. An explanation for the delay will be included in the materials sent to the committee. Starck-King offered to share the results of the audit and FORC's recommendation with the Board in an upcoming weekly report.

ILLINOIS BALANCED ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURE (IBAM) RUBRIC (WHITTIER, JULIAN AND BROOKS)

Carrie Kamm, in place of Amy Warke, came to the table and ask for questions about the IBAM request. She noted that the Whittier report was shared with the Board earlier this evening, but some of the links within the report were not correct. The report will be revised and the finalized version will be included in the weekly report for this week.

Kamm explained that this process is being completed by schools that were identified as underperforming and will enable them to receive a substantial amount of money to finance the work on their action plans. She noted that Whittier was originally labeled as underperforming, but the rating was later changed to exemplary. Because of the error, Whittier is eligible for the funding. The Board will be asked to approve the IBAM reports during the January 29 Board meeting and notice of acceptance will be shared at a later date.

BOARD ASSIGNMENTS

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STANDING BOARD COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORT FOLLOW UP (as needed – FAC, FORC, CCE, and CLAIM)

FINANCE OVERSIGHT AND REVIEW (FORC)

The FORC Committee is scheduled to meet next week.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL LIAISON REPORT FOLLOW UP (As needed – IGOV, COG, PTO COUNCIL, CEC, OPEF, COMMUNITY COUNCIL, TRI-BOARD ON EQUITY, POLICY AND SELF-EVALUATION)

TRI-BOARD ON EQUITY

Members Breymaier and Liebl were acknowledged for their work on the Tri-board on Equity Committee. It was suggested that students (middle school and high school) be invited to speak on this topic during a future Board meeting. Dr. Kelley offered to extend the invitation to the high school. It was suggested that both groups come at the same time, suggesting that they might learn from each other.

A brief discussion took place around data sharing. Confusion was expressed about looking backwards at data and an analogy was shared. It was suggested that the data sharing process is more about what the district is doing in the classrooms, more than the individual students. It was noted that data is a tremendous tool and the district is currently limited by the state as to what it has access to.

It was suggested that member Breymaier should research what the district's options are regarding data. It was also suggested that ED-RED should be asked to voice their opinion on this topic, and that ISBE might be able to assist in this area.

Dr. Kelley reported that an articulation team would be necessary to review the data once it becomes available. It was suggested that the Community Foundation might be interested in doing that work. It was suggested that the district talk to another district (District 214) who already shares data to see how they manage the process and to see if the data can prove measurable growth. Member O'Connor will share the contact information for the District 214 representative with Member Breymaier.

No further Tri-Board on Equity meetings are scheduled at this time.

POLICY

It was reported that a meeting has been scheduled to give students a chance to review the draft equity policy and share their feedback. The committee is still accepting feedback and will have another draft ready for the Board's review during the January 29 Board meeting. It was reported that DivCo is encouraging people to attend the January 29 Board meeting to convey their support.

It was suggested that the equity policy be approved prior to seating the new Board at the end of April.

President Spurlock reported that she has met with administration to discuss the financial aspects of the policy, and Dr. Kamm is working on identifying the costs. That information will be included in the January Board packet. Interest was expressed in knowing if the money will be available in future budgets to cover the identified costs.

Discussion took place about the placement of the report on January 29 in regards to public comment. It was agreed to leave the agenda placement as is, clearly communicating that the Board will not be voting to approve the equity policy at the first February meeting, but will return to address any questions that might have been raised during the January 29 meeting. The need to look at the consistency of reporting was suggested.

SELF-EVALUATION

Member Datta shared a report template with the Board and the Board supported the format.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

It was reported that District 200 will share what they are doing regarding restorative justice practices. It was recommended that District 200 and District 97 keep each other updated on efforts in this area.

It was reported that District 200 applied for the property tax relief grant and is high up on the list (around 15 or 16) and District 97 is number 90 on the list. District 200 should receive funding from this grant this year.

REFERENDUM UPDATE

The Committee for Community Engagement (CCE) discussed the format of the referendum update. The committee asked if the Board is interested in an easy to read document or a report with more detail. The Board liked the idea of a detailed report that included finances, but agreed that most people would not be interested in reading a full report. It was agreed that a full report will be posted on the Website, and a shorter (two page) report will be distributed to the public. Chris Jasculca was acknowledged for helping to compile a list of topics that should be covered. The topics were categorized into four categories (financial responsibility, facilities, student opportunity gap, and Learning environment). A two page document was recommended for review. It was suggested that each school include one success story at the top of the two page document before it is sent out to that school's community.

An open FORC meeting was recommended to be held in March (before the tax bills are released) that would allow the committee to lead a discussion on the referendum successes. Members Datta and Breymaier will move forward with this request.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

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BOARD REMARKS

It was reported that the Transportation Report was shared with the Board and no questions were received. The report will return to the Board for review on January 29, which puts it on target for a recommendation on February 12. Member Spatz is still trying to verify that all recommendations are in accordance with the law.

It was reported that the Board Secretary is working on inviting the partner programs to present at a future Board meeting. It was noted that there is no plan to change the partnership language for the 2019-20 school year.

Interest was expressed in having student voice on the Board, noting that some boards actually have a student sit on the board and participate in discussions. After a brief discussion, it was suggested that this idea be shared with the new board for consideration.

Interest was expressed in shortening the length of the Board meetings; although interest was also expressed in allocating enough time for topics to be vetted well.

BOARD REMARKS (Continued)

Member Spurlock attended the Superintendent’s Advisory Group meeting where Dr. Danny Martin spoke on black students and math. Martin noted that what we are trying to accomplish may not be reflected in scores right away. That we need to change spaces and how teachers think about the diverse students, suggesting that those kinds of changes are not reflected. Focusing on scores could hold us back. He supported Equity Policies and the need to make new spaces and consider everyone who is in the space, not welcome other into our space.

The Board was reminded that the annual ED-RED dinner is scheduled for January 28.

It was reported that IASB is doing a Webinar on the classification of the School Report Card.

Congratulations were extended to Dr. Amy Warke for being chosen as the new Superintendent of Schools for Lagrange Park, Illinois. It was suggested that District 97 consider using a search firm to fill Dr. Warke’s current position.

It was reported that Laurie Campbell is the president of the Illinois Association of School Personnel Administrators (IASPA).

Interest was expressed in assuring the Board that staffing needs for next year be identified early so they can be posted sooner this year.

A discussion on equity will be held at Dominican University on January 29, 2019.

AGENDA MAINTENANCE

The draft agenda for the January 29, 2019 Board was reviewed and revisions were recommended.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Spurlock declared the meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Board President

Board Secretary