

**Official Minutes of the  
Oak Park Board of Education District 97  
260 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois  
May 18, 2019 Special Meeting (Board Retreat)**

President Broy called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Broy, Jung, Liebl, Kearney, Breymaier, Spurlock, and Moore  
Absent: None  
Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Carol Kelley, Monica Rosen from ALMA Advisory Group, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier.

PUBLIC  
COMMENT

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**BOARD RETREAT**

BOARD  
RETREAT

Monica Rosen facilitated the morning. She began with an exercise asking participants to stand in a line according to the location of the elementary school they attended (closest to Oak Park to the farthest). This task needed to be accomplished without speaking. Once the line was established, they were asked to share a memory from third grade with a partner.

The Board reviewed yesterday's meeting outcomes. Member Moore shared a concern about a story she heard regarding the Longfellow field trip. It was suggested that since the problem is not systemic that it should be handled by administration. The Board continued discussion by examining different ways that they could address public comment.

Rosen outlined the agenda for today's meeting.

- Finish identifying priorities for Board reports
- Establish priorities (top 3 for next 2 years)
- Break out into three teams (30 minutes)
  - Equity policy implementation
  - Community engagement process
  - Unpack the structure and format of the Board agenda

President Broy shared that she is interested in making policy more forefront, and a discussion took place around vetting of agenda topics. The Board examined different leadership styles and expressed the need for more information in order for them to support the recommendations being presented. Rosen asked the Board to consider how much time they have to review materials and how much time they want administration to spend on the reporting process. Several different meeting formats were shared and considered. The Board agreed to the following report format for more detailed requests.

Administration will provide reports to the Board one week in advance. This will give the Board more time to read the materials and for administration to vet questions or concerns prior to the meeting. This way, administration can either make changes to the materials (before the packet is posted for the public), know what questions to expect at the Board table, have individual conversations with Board members, or pull the item until they feel comfortable they will approve the item.

Administration will provide agenda items with the background information they want to see included. This outline will not be used for standard items (e.g., paper bids), but for key issues, they would like administration to use the outline they created to include in the packet. They would also like a "cheat sheet" or high level summary of what the report includes.

Administration will provide the Board with its scope and sequence of agenda items for the SY20 school year before the end of June.

The Board will highlight which topics they would like administration to provide a more comprehensive report for. All other topics would have the same reporting standards that are currently being used.

The current committee structure was reviewed. It was suggested that Board members could rotate attendance at the community committee meetings.

Dr. Kelley recommended that the Board members schedule monthly individual meetings with her. The purpose of these meetings would be to help keep them informed and to build relationships.

The Board took a brief break and returned at 10:27 a.m.

The Board norms were reviewed. It was suggested that the norms be identified on the public comment sign-in sheet. It was suggested that if a Board member has something they are anticipating, to bring it up during the agenda preview section of the agenda for considerations. It was agreed that the Board President, Vice President and Dr. Kelley will draft a plan on how to move forward in this area.

### **TOP PRIORITIES OF THE BOARD**

Each Board member was asked to answer the following two questions on individual post-it notes and place them on the wall.

**What are the strengths of the district that we want to sustain as a Board? From a student and adult practice perspective as well.**

- Co-Teaching (expand, other inclusive opportunities)
- Differentiation
- Leveraging curriculum (music, art)
- Strong community
- Making strides with community engagement
- Instructional Coaches (PD)
- Cabinet and administrators strong leaders
- Vision plan / equity
- Program on MTSS
- Fiscal stewardship
- Progressive ideas from administration
- Students are brilliant

**What are the most important improvements for the district that we want to make?**

- Equity policy implementation
- Positivity about the district
- Fostering culture and climate
- Community engagement and communication
- Revisiting metrics and mechanisms
- Diverse work force
- Middle school schedule and rigor
- Physical Education curriculum
- Discipline
- Social justice club leadership

Member Spurlock left at 11:30 a.m.

The following priorities were identified;

- **Culture/Climate** (relationships between adults, between adults-students, between students-students, and building buy-in)
- **Revisiting our metrics** to better align with the communities stated values, examining our mechanisms to collect and share these metrics, and creating an evaluation plan.

**ADJOURNMENT**

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Broy declared the meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Secretary