

Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97
260 Madison Street, Oak Park
May 9, 2023 Regular Meeting

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

President Kim called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Present: Kim, Moore, Ross Dribin, Kearney, Kinhal, Hurd Johnson, Spurlock

Absent: None

Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Ushma Shah, Chief Academic and Accountability Officer Dr. Ebony Lofton, Director of Human Resources Dr. Margo Schmitt, Senior Director of Technology Michael Arensdorff, Senior Director of Equity Dr. Carrie Kamm, Senior Director of Buildings & Grounds Jeanne Keane, Senior Director of Finance Patrick King, Senior Director of Communications Amanda Siegfried, and Lonya Boose Board Secretary.

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Spurlock moved, seconded by Kearney 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 6:05 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

OPEN SESSION

President Kim motioned that the Board move into Open Session at 7:01 p.m. All present members of the Board were in agreement. The Board convened in Open Session at 7:05 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Hello, and thank you for the opportunity to speak this evening.

My name is Jessica Roberts and I have two students in D97, my son is in third grade and my daughter is in first grade.

I am a part of a broader group of parents and educators who are concerned about the current way students are being taught how to read in Oak Park. My .1st grade daughter struggles with reading. At the beginning of this school year, she told me, "Mommy, I am just not good at reading." That almost broke my heart. She has had two wonderful D97 teachers, last year in kindergarten and then this year for 1st grade. And this year, she's also receiving reading intervention every day, yet she's still struggling.

I am here this evening, because I love Oak Park and I want to see every student thrive. I grew up in Oak Park and then returned with my husband to raise our children here. I believe that we can do better for ALL D97 students. According to the most recent IAR data available on ISBE, 58% of Oak Park students are reading BELOW grade level. There is also a clear racial disparity to this data, indicating an

PUBLIC COMMENT

achievement gap in the district. D97 uses a balanced literacy framework, and currently educators are teaching using the curriculum developed by Lucy Calkins called Units of Study. It has been proven NOT to be effective. Various reviews conducted on this resource reveal significant gaps in:

1. Lack of explicit, systematic and diagnostic foundational skills instruction
2. Lack of texts that are appropriately complex for all grade levels
3. Lack of opportunities to systematically build knowledge for students

The solution? We are asking you to implement structured literacy instruction that emphasizes knowledge building and foundational skills.

School Districts around the country are out-pacing Oak Park by making significant changes towards an evidence-based literacy curriculum. Just today, New York City's Schools announced that all of its 32 local school districts will move away from balanced literacy and adopt an evidence-based literacy curriculum. Locally, district 39 in Wilmette and district 203 in Naperville have moved towards evidence-based literacy and this change is reflected in their test scores.

Their IAR scores show significant improvement in the number of students reading at grade level or above. District 97's equity policy states "It is the right of every student to have an excellent equitable educational experience. Educational equity benefits all students and our entire community. Equity provides all students with what they need to thrive, achieve at the highest level possible, and graduate prepared for college, career and community success." Literacy is a basic civil right and ultimately a matter of equity. To that end, I am asking that the district strongly consider taking the following action steps:

1. Move away from this balanced literacy curriculum, and move towards an evidence-based literacy curriculum.
2. Invest in teacher and leader training around evidence-based literacy practices.

Thank you all for your time this evening and for your service to our community. We look forward to hearing your next steps to help all students in Oak Park thrive as readers and writers.

4. #D97Joy Culture and Celebration Update

#D97JOY

Student Celebrations

Brooks and Julian Middle Schools received recognition again this year, being awarded "Distinguished Schools" by Project Lead The Way (PLTW). Our middle schools join more than two hundred middle schools across the United States receiving this honor for providing access to transformative learning through design programming. PLTW Distinguished Schools are committed to increasing student access, engagement and achievement. Congratulations Staff and Students of this amazing program!

Staff Appreciation

Join us as we celebrate Staff Appreciation Week, May 8 through May 12, 2023. You can also say "thank you" to a District 97 teacher or staff member, by sharing a positive story of appreciation by way of tweet, @OakPark97, using #D97Joy and #OakPark97. Many Thanks goes to all of our staff during this time, for all of their hard work and dedication to all students in District 97.

5. DISTRICT PRIORITY UPDATE

PRIORITY
UPDATE

Continuing the appreciation of staff, Superintendent Dr. Shah shares how informative school visits were while conducting listening tours. The open dialogue with staff and students continues to inform and shape the future of District 97. Dr. Shah commends staff and students for asking the right questions, even if they are hard questions and also the overall commitment observed from staff wanting the best for each and every student they support here in the district.

Additional context of this appreciation can be seen by viewing the livestream of the board meeting on the District 97 YouTube channel.

6. ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEMS

6.1 Consent Agenda

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

- 6.1.1 Approval of Minutes from the April 25, 2023 Board Meeting
- 6.1.2 Bill List
- 6.1.3 Personnel
- 6.1.4 Approval : Holmes Elementary Yearbook Club Donation
- 6.1.5 Approval : Middle School Overnight Track and Field State Competition
- 6.1.6 Approval : Policy Adoption Updates
- 6.1.7 Approval : West 40 Intergovernmental Agreement

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

6.2 Action

6.2.1 Approval: SY24 Leadership Roles (4.25.23)

Ross Dribin moved, seconded by Moore that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 moves to approve the District 97 Teacher Leadership Roles for the school year 2023-2024 with a financial impact of \$623,500.

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

6.2.2 Approval: Lakeview Transportation Contract Extension (4.25.23)

Moore moved, seconded by Spurlock that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 moves to approve the contracts provided for regular, in-district, and out of district transportation with Lakeview Bus Lines, Inc. for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years.

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

6.3 Board Reorganization

6.3.1 Motion to Certify Official Results | School Board Election April 4, 2023

Kearney moved, seconded by Ross Dribin that the Board of Education, of Oak Park Elementary School District 97, certifies the official results of the April 4, 2023 school board election as reported by the Cook County Clerk's office, naming Jung Kim, Cheree Moore, Gavin Kearney and Holly Spurlock as elected to four-year terms and Colleen Burns as elected to two-year term as members of the Board of Education of School District 97.

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

6.3.2 Proclamation of Newly Elected Board Members

Hurd Johnson moved, seconded Ross Dribin that the Board of Education, of Oak Park Elementary School District 97, proclaim that Jung Kim, Colleen Burns, Gavin Kearney, Cheree Moore and Holly Spurlock have been duly elected members to the District 97, Oak Park Board of Education.

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

6.3.3 Adoption of Resolution | Outgoing Board Member

Moore moved, seconded by Spurlock that the Board of Education, of Oak Park Elementary School District 97, adopts the resolution read in recognition of outgoing board members Shyla Kinhal.

Ayes: Kim, Kearney, Ross Dribin, Moore, Hurd Johnson, Kinhal, Spurlock
Nays: None

Absent: None
Motion passed.

6.3.4 Swearing in of New Board Members

Board Member Oath of Office and Code of Conduct

I, (Name), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of member of the Board of Education of Oak Park School District 97, in accordance with the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and the laws of the State of Illinois, to the best of my ability.

I further swear (or affirm) that:

I shall respect taxpayer interests by serving as a faithful protector of the School District's assets;

I shall encourage and respect the free expression of opinion by my fellow Board members and others who seek a hearing before the Board, while respecting the privacy of students and employees;

I shall recognize that a Board member has no legal authority as an individual and that decisions can be made only by a majority vote at a public Board meeting;

I shall abide by majority decisions of the Board, while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions through ethical and constructive channels;

As part of the Board of Education, I shall accept the responsibility for my role in the equitable and quality education of every student in the School District;

I shall foster with the Board extensive participation of the community, formulate goals, define outcomes, and set the course for Oak Park School District 97;

I shall assist in establishing a structure and an environment designed to ensure all students have the opportunity to attain their maximum potential through a sound organizational framework;

I shall strive to ensure a continuous assessment of student achievement and all conditions affecting the education of our children, in compliance with State law;

I shall serve as education's key advocate on behalf of students and our community's school (or schools) to advance the vision for Oak Park School District 97; and

I shall strive to work together with the District Superintendent to lead the School District toward fulfilling the vision the Board has created, fostering excellence for every student in the areas of academic skills, knowledge, citizenship, and personal development.

7. Retiring Board Member Comments

Board member Kinhal, First I would like to thank the educators who wake up every day to teach and care for our students. Thank you to the Central Office team, Dr. Shah I’m so excited for the vision you bring to this district, to the Board, thank you for the opportunity to serve on this fine board. I came on to support and foster equitable practices across the district, that would be my call to each of you, continue to push for those practices including with literacy. Thank you.

8. Adjournment of Old Board

All seven current and present members of the Board were in agreement that the meeting of the old board be adjourned. There being no further business to conduct, President Kim declared the meeting adjourned by voice vote at 7:34p.m.

9. Convene New Board

Newly Elected Board of Education convened at 7:35p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Kim, Moore, Ross Dribin, Kearney, Burns, Hurd Johnson, Spurlock

9.1 Election of Temporary President

That the Board of Education, of Oak Park Elementary School District 97, temporarily nominate a President during the reorganization of officers. The forementioned nominees are Venus Hurd Johnson and Lonya Boose Temporary Secretary. All board of education members were in agreement.

9.2 Election of Officers

<p>For President: Nomination and Election of President of the Board of Education for School District 97 from May 9, 2023 to May 9, 2024.</p> <p>Name: Gavin Kearney By: Collective Board Roll Call Vote on Nomination: Ross Dribin, Hurd Johnson, Burns, Spurlock, Kim, Moore, Kearney</p>
<p>For Vice President: Nomination and Election of Vice President of the Board of Education for School District 97 from May 9, 2023 to May 9, 2024.</p> <p>Name: Nancy Ross Dribin</p>

By: Collective Board

Roll Call Vote on Nomination: Kim, Kearney, Moore, Spurlock, Burns, Ross Dribin, Hurd Johnson

For Secretary:

Nomination and Election of Secretary of the Board of Education for School District 97 from May 9, 2023 to May 9, 2024.

Name: **Lonya Boose**

By: Collective Board

Roll Call Vote on Nomination: Hurd Johnson, Ross Dribin, Spurlock, Burns, Kearney, Moore, Kim

9.3 New Board Member Comments

- Newly elected board member Colleen Burns is excited to join the District 97 Board. Burns is appreciative of all with work this board, and retiring board member Kinhal has done and looking forward to being involved in future work.
- New Board President Kearney, Thank you for a second term! I am excited to work with Nancy Ross Dribin. I express my gratitude to Jung and Venus for taking on these position for the last two years. We have an opportunity to do some meaningful stuff with the highest of investments in service as Board of Education members. We are planning to hold a retreat, get collective feedback, review committee structures and also research other districts to see their process.
- New Board Vice President Ross Dribin, Thank you to the board members who re-ran for office. I appreciate that you are all here. Thank you, Colleen, your library experience, village experience will be a great asset. Thank you, Jung and Venus, you all did a great job allowing us to have good conversations, and appreciate the work you have done.
- Board member Moore, Happy Teacher Appreciation Week! Special shoutout to all the Board of Education members who ran again, I am super excited at the opportunity to see what Dr. Shah has planned for District 97. Thank you, Jung, I appreciate you stepping up as well Venus. Holly thank you for your historical knowledge, both you and Gavin for your legal expertise.
- Board member Spurlock, I was not sure that another four years was best for me and my family. I am excited for the work ahead with Dr. Shah. Colleen has been here in Oak Park with another governing body, I think it's a benefit to our staff, student and central office. We have a lot to give, COVID slowed some things down, related to focus and opportunity around our Equity Policy, but I am appreciative to our teachers. We are almost at the end of the school year, I am excited, this is a real opportunity and I am happy to be back!
- Former Board President Kim, Thank you for letting me be President. Echoing what others have said, running again is about some of the work we were not able to get to with COVID. I am excited to work with Dr. Shah. I have been working to update board committees, details of this will be discussed at the next Board retreat.
- Board member Hurd Johnson, I echo all the comments, congratulations to everyone! I am surprised to see everyone who re-ran for office. I will enjoy my time on the board for the next two years. To all teachers and staff, we have seen some awesome student engagement and innovation during our meetings. Our teachers work really hard, our turn to give a little love, Thank you!

10. PUBLIC COMMENT | New Board

No public comment for newly elected board.

11. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

11.1 FY23 Auditing Services Contract (action 5.23.23)

Summary

Engagement letter for auditing services from Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP for fiscal year 2023. Also attached is the engagement letter to perform agreed-upon procedures related to payroll for the School Employee Loss Fund (SELF) for fiscal year 2023. Below are the auditing fee changes:

Type	<u>FY 22</u>	<u>FY23</u>
Financial Statement audit	\$55,350	\$63,000*
Single Audit	\$15,000	N/A
SELF (AUP)	<u>\$650</u>	<u>\$750</u>
Total	\$71,000	\$63,750

*Fee includes 2 single audit programs

The fees above are based on known circumstances at this time. With the ever-changing ISBE requirements and GASB accounting standard changes, Baker Tilly will discuss the need for any revised fees as they come up. The number of single audit programs required to be tested can vary from year to year as well. The decrease in fees from fiscal year 2022 is reflective of that as there were 2 additional single audit programs required to be tested in FY 2022. We have been extremely pleased with the service provided by Baker Tilly over the past six years. They have extensive knowledge of our District and have provided many value added services and professional development opportunities in addition to their audit services.

Motion

Administration is seeking a motion for the Board to engage Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP to perform auditing services for the 2023 fiscal year per the attached.

*All documents are included in the board packet.

11.2 Paper Bid (action 5.23.23)

Summary

A legal notice was published in the April 5, 2023 addition of the Wednesday Journal announcing a formal bid opening on April 19, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. Nine firms were invited to bid on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, four responses were received (see attached summary).

Murnane Paper Company was the lowest responsible bidder. Murnane has been D97's paper supplier for several years and we have always been pleased with their service and quality. The term of the agreement will be for two years (school years 2024 and 2025) and will have an option of two 1-year extensions beyond that.

Administration will be seeking a motion that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97 accepts the lowest proposed bid of \$105,955.00 from Murnane Paper Company.

12. BOARD ASSIGNMENTS

- Bingo Bash will take place on Friday May 12, 2023. This event supports Oak Park Education Foundation efforts to provide scholarships to students and access to programming.
- PTOC will hold its final meeting of the year next week with an informal gathering.
- IGOV recently held a forum around engaging on social media. The event was well attended by all governing bodies, the workshop was tailored to elected officials.

BOARD
ASSIGNMENTS

13. CONCLUDING ITEMS

10.1 Board Remarks

(Reflected in section 9.3)

CONCLUDING
ITEMS

14. ADJOURNMENT

All Seven 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 8:04p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Board President

Board Secretary