

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97
260 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
November 18, 2020 Meeting**

Joint meeting with the Village of Oak Park and Oak Park River Forest High School board members, and the Collaboration for Early Childhood.

This meeting was held virtually using Zoom during the time of the Coronavirus pandemic. Everyone participated via electronic means.

Vice President Kim called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Kim, Spurlock, Liebl, and Moore
Absent: Broy, Breymaier and Kearney
Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Carol Kelley, Director of Finance Patrick King, Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier and Chapin Hall representative Bob Goerge.

Village Board Members: Mayor Anan Abu-Taleb, Trustees Boutet, Buchanan, Moroney, Taglia and Walker-Peddakotia, Village Manager Cara Pavlicek, and Village Clerk Vicki Scaman.

District 200 Board Members: President Sara Dixon Spivy, Vice President Craig Iseli, Members Tom Cofsky, Jackie Moore, and Matt Baron. Superintendent Joy Lynn Pruitt-Adams, and Clerk to the Board Gail Kalmerton.

Collaboration for Early Childhood: John Borrero, Laura Crawford, Gordon Hellwig.

PUBLIC
COMMENT

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

SPECIAL REPORTS

OVERVIEW OF 2019/20 PROGRAM YEAR

John Borrero, Executive Director of the Collaboration for Early Childhood shared a brief description of the purpose of the Collaboration and an overview of their work for the year. He shared the Collaboration's annual report, *The State of Early Childhood in Oak Park*, which highlights statistics related to the children in the community ranging in age from newborn to five years old.

SPECIAL
REPORTS

Borrero reported that the annual symposium was successfully held in January with 446 attendees. He shared that the Collaboration has successfully started using text messaging as a way to communicate with the families of young children. The Collaboration expanded their partnership base, which now includes the Library, Park District, Township and the Community Foundation which acquired a pilot grant that will be used for classroom safety practices. The goal of the pilot is to publish guidelines.

DATA DISCUSSION

Bob Goerge from Chapin Hall, an independent research center that supports the Collaboration reported that the Collaboration has developed an infrastructure for gathering and using data that combines multiple data sources to paint a picture of the status of the young children within the community. Chapin Hall is using census data, along with information from District 97, the Ages and Stages questionnaire screening, the Gold Assessments, Preschool For All/Head Start programs, the Illinois Administrative Data, including early intervention and SNAP to track outcomes. Goerge shared findings that indicated that more preschool age children are taking the kindergarten readiness assessment.

Goerge noted that the early childhood landscape has shifted dramatically this year due to the pandemic, and he noted the need to ask different questions to gain clarity; such as what are we learning during this crisis, and how can those lessons be shared. He reported that 14 percent of the households with children reported that the children were not eating enough because they could not afford food. 20 percent of the renters reported that they were behind on their rent. 32 percent of the adults were having difficulty covering their usual household expenses, and the state is showing a 16 percent increase in SNAP usage. Goerge explained that some of the data sources used in the past may not be available during the pandemic, and he expressed the need for real-time data to inform decision-making now and during the recovery period. He expressed a need to leverage the existing data systems (e.g., KIDS, INCCRRA data and public program records) as much as possible.

Goerge recognized weaknesses in the current state systems that have been identified through the pandemic, and suggested that the time to address those weaknesses is now. He finished by reminding the board members that the Oak Park Early Childhood model is used throughout the state.

OPEN DISCUSSION: OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUTURE EARLY CHILDHOOD IMPACT

Borrero elaborated on the partnerships and shared information about the Foster Grandparent Program. Borrero opened the floor to discussion and invited participants to add recommendations to his “jam board”. The boards were asked to consider ways to address poverty. Member Moore suggested that the community think of a way to address the systems that perpetuate the situation, and a District 200 board member recommended that all the governing bodies support the Collaboration and the community in addressing the poverty concerns.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

FINANCIAL
REPORTS

FY20 YEAR END FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Gordon Hellwig, Treasurer for the Collaboration reported that the Collaboration runs a zero based budget. He explained that the Collaboration invoices the three governing bodies every two months, however; this year the Collaboration was under budget by about \$220,000, so they skipped one of the invoices. He reported that the Collaborations net assets grew by 1 percent, and is currently holding a \$6,000 surplus, which puts the Collaboration in good financial condition. Hellwig reported that the Collaboration recently received a clean audit review.

SY2021 SEPTEMBER YEAR-TO-DATE REPORTS

Hellwig reported that the current budget expenses are about \$80,000 below the budgeted amount.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT REPORT AND IGA ADMINISTRATIVE FUND

Patrick King, Director of Finance is the administrative agent for the Collaboration IGA Governing Board. He shared a summary of the cash balances. King reported that the invoices were sent out for the January draw, and shared that the Collaboration is on track for six draws this year.

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Boutet made a motion to adjourn the joint meeting, it was seconded by District 200 Board Member Jackie Moore. The motion was approved by a voice vote of all three boards. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary

