

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois
March 16, 2010**

SPECIAL MEETING - FINANCE

President Traczyk called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Gates, Spatz, Clouser, Reddy, Harton, Barber, and Traczyk
Absent: None
Also Present: Superintendent Constance R. Collins, Director of Human Resources Trish Carlson, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Therese O'Neill, Communications Coordinator Chris Jasculca, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

Executive Session

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Barber moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 6:03 p.m. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Barber, Gates, Clouser, Spatz, Reddy, Harton, and Traczyk
Nays: None
Motion passed.

Open Session

OPEN SESSION

Gates moved, seconded by Harton, that the Board of Education move into open session at 7:13 p.m. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Harton, Reddy, Barber, Spatz, Clouser, and Traczyk
Nays: None
Motion passed.

Public Comment

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Finance Discussion

FINANCE DISCUSSION

Therese O'Neill updated the Board on the status of the State's budget and Governor Quinn's five pillars of recovery plan. She shared that the state is looking at a 16 percent reduction in the k-12 education budget as well as reductions to ISBE and MCAT programs. O'Neill explained that the state may not take action on the budget until May 2010. It was suggested that the District consider face-to-face meetings with state representatives, identifying the District's top three funding priorities.

O'Neill reported that using the FORC projections and anticipating an \$8,000,000 increase in the Operating Funds, the tax rate increase necessary to balance the District's budget is approximately \$144 on a \$100,000 market value home.

O'Neill continued by sharing several referendum options for the Board to consider.

- Limiting Rate Increase – April 2011
- CPI Override Question – April 2011
- School Building Bonds
- Referendum for Working Cash Fund Bonds
- Increase Debt Service Extension Base

After an extensive discussion, the Board showed some interest in CPI Override Questions; however, a larger interest was expressed in Limiting Rate Increase and Referendum for Working Cash Fund Bonds. O'Neill will move forward with strategies focused on the two identified options, and expense reduction suggestions.

Individual Board comments included:

- A suggestion to eliminate positions that will become available due to retirement.
- A suggestion that reductions must be part of the referendum plan.
- A suggestion to share information with the community detailing what would be lost should a referendum not be approved.
- A suggestion that the Board members share their opinions on hiring, firing, and individual program status with president Traczyk before March 23. He will compile the information and draw a consensus on the Board's direction.

Member Harton left the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session

Reddy moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education move into executive session. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Reddy, Gates, Clouser, Spatz, Barber, Harton, and Traczyk

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Open Session

OPEN SESSION

Reddy moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education move into open session. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Reddy, Gates, Harton, Barber, Spatz, Clouser, and Traczyk

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Executive Session

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Gates moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education move into executive session. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Reddy, Clouser, Spatz, Barber, Harton, and Traczyk

Nays: None

Motion passed.

There being no further business to conduct, President Traczyk declared the meeting adjourned at 10:09 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be on Tuesday March 23, 2010 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Administration building located at 970 Madison Street.

Board President

Board Secretary