

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Cook County, Oak Park, Illinois
May 25, 2010**

The meeting was held at Julian Middle School, 416 S. Ridgeland.

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Clouser, Spatz, Reddy, Harton (6:46 p.m.), Barber, and Traczyk
Absent: Gates
Also Present: Superintendent Constance R. Collins, Director of Human Resources Trish Carlson, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations Therese O'Neill, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Kevin Anderson, Communications Coordinator Chris Jasculca, Teachers Leanne Scaro, Paul Packer, and Jan Dressel, Curriculum Coordinator Kelly Baird and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session

Barber moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 6:32 p.m. Roll call vote.

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

OPEN SESSION

Open Session

Barber moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education move into open session at 6:55 p.m. Roll call vote.

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

SPECIAL REPORT

Special Report
PRESENTATION

Three students shared detailed results from a survey they conducted on the topic of homework. Students, teachers, principals and parents were surveyed, and all agreed that homework is helpful to children. Concern was expressed regarding assigned homework that covers materials not taught in class. The students recommended that teachers examine the kind of homework assigned, and that children should have a voice in determining the types of homework given. They also recommended that teachers should meet with students when they experience difficulties.

It was reported that these students will be invited to share their findings with administration in the fall.

Public Comment

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dina Ross, an Oak Park parent, expressed her concern regarding the gifted math program policy. She views the lack of policy as an ongoing problem and a continual concern for the parents. She expressed her concern that an unchanged GTD program could hinder the passing of a referendum.

Linda Coberly, an Oak Park parent, expressed concern that the GTD services might be cut. She shared that the change in the job title may be reflected in the change of duties. She is concerned that a single staff person cannot support the new job description and facilitate the students. She reported that the Whittier community is working as a group to identify the issues surrounding this program.

Carollina Song, an Oak Park parent and PTO co-president, asked the Board to explain why there appears to be a widely varying rate of students who receive GTD services, and if the Board finds these rates acceptable. She also asked if the new math demonstrates a split in this process. She suggests that some directives are in contention with each other. She recommended that the Board become more active in the operation of the district services, stay in communication with the parents, and give the parents an opportunity to partner with the schools. She also recommended a mandatory meeting with parents at the middle school level.

Mary Pat Mauro, an Oak Park parent, suggested that the district show the same level of commitment to the children at the top levels of academic achievement as they show to all other children.

Linda Francis, an Oak Park parent, questioned if the requirements for level two GTD services are the same at every school. If so, she questioned how the district could account for the differences between schools. She questioned the data that shows the correlation between the scores and the students actually receiving services. She suggested that the district review data from River Forest elementary school district, the high school district, and the differences between the two middle schools.

Elizabeth Freeland, an Oak Park parent, expressed concern that the GTD program is not systemic. She shared that the parents are hearing that the middle schools are not prepared to support the advanced students. She questioned the GTD standards at the elementary school level.

Kris Gallagher, an Oak Park parent who served on the SIT committee for the last three years, shared that she has heard very little discussion about challenging the advanced students. She read a quote from the College Bridge program at DePaul University that suggests that schools should pay more attention to the advanced students as they need to be motivated too.

Barbara Ciancio, an Oak Park parent, expressed concern over the GTD program at Whittier. She explained that her child was tested for services in first grade and for two years has not been informed as to whether he qualifies for services. She asked the Board to assure that all the needs of all the students are being met.

Staff /Student Recognition

STAFF/STUDENT
RECOGNITION

Awards were presented to Susan Diehl for earning the Adviser of the Year from the Best Buddies of Illinois, John McCauley, Janice Roberts and Cheryl Jackson for Those Who Excel, and Sandy Noel for receiving the Outstanding Health Educator Award from Whole Foods. Dr. Collins was recognized for earning the NASBE Phenomenal Women Award.

Twenty students, 10 from each middle school, were honored for superior scores on the SAT. Phillip Harris received two trophies for his accomplishments on the test.

Loretta Dean, Patrice Keleher, Nathan Pietrini and Therese Tencate were honored by SEA.

The Board recessed at 8:02 p.m. for a brief reception to honor the staff and students in attendance.

Reconvene at 8:20 p.m.

RECESS /
RECONVENE

2.1.1 Approval of Minutes of May 6, 2010

Reddy moved, seconded by Barber, that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the May 6, 2010 meeting. Roll call vote.

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

2.1.2 Approval of Minutes of May 11, 2010

Reddy moved, seconded by Clouser, that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the May 11, 2010 meeting as revised. Roll call vote.

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

Action Items

2.2.1 Approval of Consent Agenda

President Traczyk read the items on the consent agenda. Harton moved, seconded by Clouser, that the following items be approved on the consent agenda.

- 2.1.1 Bill Lists and Related Reports
- 2.3.1 Personnel Action as presented

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

New staff members in attendance were introduced.

2.3.2 Suspension Without Pay – Employee 1003

Clouser moved, seconded by Barber, that the Board of Education approve a two-day suspension without pay for employee 1003. Roll call vote.

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

2.4.1 Custodial Supply Bid

Barber moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education award its 2010-11 custodial supplies contract in the total amount of \$97,913.64 to the companies as delineated in the memorandum to the Board dated April 27, 2010. Roll call vote.

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

2.4.2 Paper Bid

Harton moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education award its 2010-11 printing, xerographic and carbonless paper contract to Murnane Paper Company in the total amount of \$84,730 per the memorandum dated May 11, 2010. Roll call vote.

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

2.4.3 Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with West40 Intermediate Service Center

Reddy moved, seconded by Barber, that the Board of Education award its 2010-11 Safe Schools Intergovernmental Agreement between West40 Intermediate Service Center 2 and Oak Park Elementary School District 97. Also approved is an \$11,400 payment to reserve one student spot for the 2010-2011 school year using Option 2. Roll call vote.

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

2.4.4 Approval of Medical, Dental and Life Insurance Rates

Clouser moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of the District 97 Insurance Committee, supported by the district's insurance consultant The Bjork Group, to increase the medical rates for 2010-11 by six percent and any claims in excess of this six percent increase be absorbed by the Insurance Fund. Further, no increase in either the district's dental or life insurance premiums is recommended at this time. Roll call vote.

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

2.4.5 Approval of Oak Park Youth Township Intergovernmental Agreement

Barber moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for Youth Interventionist Program and to participate in the funding of the program for FY 2010-2011 and FY 2011-2012 at a maximum estimated amount as follows:

FY 2010-2011	\$29,462.01
FY 2011-2012	\$30,334.00

Roll call vote.

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

2.4.6 Resolution Urging Cook County to Pay Taxes on Time

Spatz moved, seconded by Clouser, that the Board of Education adopt a resolution encouraging the state to issue the second installment of the 2009 real estate taxes and all future tax bills on time. Roll call vote.

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

2.4.7 Accept Amendment to the Board Calendar

Barber moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education amend the 2009-10 Board of Education calendar of meeting dates, moving the meeting scheduled for June 8, 2010 at 7 p.m. to June 14, 2010 at 7 p.m. Roll call vote.

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

2.4.8 Approval of the MAP Assessment Program

Harton moved, seconded by Clouser, that the Board of Education approve the purchase of the annual subscription to the NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment program at the cost of \$56,200, including first year professional development training. MAP will replace Pearson PASeries and Benchmark assessment software and will be used in grades two through eight beginning with the 2010-2011 school year. Roll call vote.

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

Preliminary Recommendation Review **PREVAILING WAGE**

PRELIMINARY
RECOMMENDATION
REVIEW

Annually, the Board of Education is required to adopt a formal resolution specific to “An ACT regulating wages of laborers, mechanics and other workers employed in any public works by the State, County, City or any public body or political subdivision or anyone under contract for public works,” or what is commonly referred to as the Prevailing Wage Rate. The Department of Labor of the State of Illinois publishes, as of June of each calendar year, the Prevailing Wage Schedule and this document is incorporated in the formal resolution. The administration will be seeking formal Board approval at the June 14 meeting.

FOOD SERVICE REPORT

An update on the healthy meals agreement with the high school was shared. The district achieved the required threshold and, as outlined in the agreement, a credit has been extended. Meals sold from April until the end of the school year will be reduced by 11 cents each, and meals will not be increased for the next school year. It was reported that the district could see an additional \$8,000 to \$10,000 in savings prior to the end of the FY09-10 school year. This report will return to the Board for approval on June 14.

VIDEO CAMERA UPDATE / POLICY FIRST READING

The Board was updated on the many ways that this policy has been shared with the community. Feedback was requested and 40 responses were received. Out of those responses, 65 percent were in support of the camera installation.

Concern was expressed by the teacher’s union. It was suggested that Carlson and Dr. Collins meet with the union representatives.

A discussion took place regarding the transportation bid, suggesting that it may be impacted by this policy.

ATOMIC LEARNING ONLINE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

This report outlined an online professional development package from Atomic Learning that the district is proposing for purchase to meet teacher and student technology literacy and integration needs. The cost of the annual subscription is \$12,228.40, with funding coming from the Professional Development allocation of the district technology plan. This will return to the Board for action on June 14.

District / Board Activity and Priorities **DIFFERENTIATION / GIFTED**

DISTRICT / BOARD
ACTIVITY AND
PRIORITIES

Kevin Anderson, GTD teachers Leanne Scaro, Paul Packer, and Jan Dressel, and Curriculum Coordinator Kelly Baird reported on the Gifted/Talented and Differentiation program and the services provided to students in kindergarten through eighth grades. They provided information about the unique offerings found in each building, as well as the ways in which differentiation support is provided to classroom teachers. The Gifted Identification matrices, the Middle School sixth grade Math Placement Matrix, and the Differentiation and Gifted Services Brochure were shared.

The GTD program operates on two levels. Students identified for level one services receive support from the GTD teacher within the classroom setting. Students identified for level two services receive support outside of the classroom setting.

Differentiation was defined as the process that enables teachers to improve student learning by matching the students learning characteristics to the district's curriculum. It was reported that differentiation has been the platform for everything the district has been doing in the classroom for the last few years.

Interest was expressed in reviewing the student breakdown data to assure accuracy, as it was noted that children receiving services in reading and in math may have been counted twice. Interest was also expressed in determining what impact a parent's influence could play on the child's placement into the program, and in reviewing the qualification process to determine if the community truly has a population of 20 percent of children deserving of gifted services.

Additionally, it was suggested that administration clearly articulate the kindergarten through eighth grade math program, attempting to explain how every program can be challenging to all students and not just to the gifted students. The Board was reminded that they agreed to hold a work-study meeting on curriculum mapping. The question of how the GTD program fits into that discussion was raised, also how it fits into District 200.

COMMITTEE FOR COLLABORATIVE COMMUNICATION

Discussion took place regarding the proposed changes to the charge, and the creation of subcommittees. Minor changes were suggested to the document.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH UPDATE

Of the additional 140 survey responses received, the search firm reported that the overall response was similar to their original findings. They also reported that 19 parents, 20 teachers, and three support staff attended the additional forums. It was reported that the firm has approximately 38 individuals currently interested in the superintendent position, anticipating that number to increase to 40 or 50. Hazard, Young, Attea and Associates, Ltd. is beginning the pre-interview process and is confident that they will be able to bring forth a variety of strong candidates.

Superintendent's Report

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

The Race to the Top Phase II documents were signed by the Superintendent, OPTA President and Board President and were submitted to the state today. More than 300 districts expressed interest in partnering with the state, with about 150 of those having signed on from the local superintendent, board president and union leadership.

Superintendent's Report (Continued)

The Citizens Council and OPRF extended appreciation to everyone for attending the Teen Alcohol and Substance Use Forum last week. With over 400 people in attendance, the support and concern for our youth was evident.

The Lincoln School Task Force is meeting Thursday, May 27 to continue a review of the Lincoln School renovation plan.

The WSCAE/ Northwestern University Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS) Awards Ceremony was held on Wednesday, May 5 at LaGrange Jr. High School. To be eligible for the ceremony, children had to have taken the SAT during the previous January. In addition, to receive recognition, children had to score 500 or above on any one of the SAT subtests (math, reading, or writing). Based on these criteria; Brooks and Julian each had 10 students qualify. One of the district's eighth graders had the highest SAT math and reading scores amongst all the WSCAE 8th graders.

District 97, the Village, and the OPPD are continuing to tackle the issue of the crossing guards. The superintendent, business manager and HR director met with the chief and deputy chief today. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday and this meeting will include the principals, Village engineer and public works director.

The elementary reading committee has decided on *Treasures* by McGraw Hill as the new elementary reading language arts series for use in fall 2011. We are currently working with the vendor on pricing and professional development.

The middle school language arts materials have begun to arrive, and the teachers will have their materials prior to summer break.

Board Concerns / Announcements

BOARD CONCERNS /
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Member Harton requested to be included in discussions regarding a parent ombudsman / parent liaison. She was on the steering committee and wants to participate in any discussion on this topic.

Concern was expressed regarding student literacy and the fact that parents can inadvertently purchase reading materials for their children that are not written in correct English. It was suggested that the district make parents aware of this concern.

Members Traczyk and Barber will attend the Village meeting on June 26. The Village discussed having a joint booth at the June 6 events. More information will be forthcoming. Members Spatz, Clouser and Barber confirmed their availability.

An update on minority hiring was requested.

It was reported that the state received a large grant focusing on data collection. It was suggested that the district might get assistance to support data sharing between the districts.

The PTO Council requested that some of the financial projections be posted on the Web site. The Board will discuss this request during the June 22 budget discussion.

The FORC committee will meet tomorrow evening. The preliminary budget data will be shared and discussed.

Concern was expressed regarding the recent newspaper coverage on student discipline, noting that the district administrators were never contacted to confirm the reported data.

Member Harton left the meeting at 11 p.m.

Board Response to Public Comment

**BOARD RESPONSE
TO PUBLIC
COMMENT**

As all public comment was focused on the gifted program, the report on Differentiation/Gifted will be considered the response to public comment.

It was suggested that a work-study meeting for GTD should be added into the agenda calendar for FY2010-11.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Traczyk declared the meeting adjourned at 11:20 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be on Tuesday June 22, 2010 beginning at 7 p.m. in the Administration building, located at 970 Madison Street.

Board President

Board Secretary