

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97
260 Madison Street, Oak Park
May 11, 2021 Meeting**

This meeting was held in-person and virtually using Zoom during the time of the Coronavirus pandemic. One or more of the board members met in-person and everyone else were virtual.

President Kim called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Interim Superintendent Dr. Patricia Wernet, Director of Communications Amanda Siegfried, Senior Director of Technology Michael Arensdorff, Senior Director of Human Resources Gina Herrmann, Chief Academic and Accountability Office Eboney Lofton, Associate Superintendent of Education Felicia Starks Turner, Senior Director of Equity Carrie Kamm, Senior Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessments Tawanda Lawrence, , Director of MTSS Faith Cole, Senior Director of Buildings & Grounds Jeanne Keane, Security and School Safety Manager Jim Hackett, Rob Grossi, Interim Superintendent Dr. Griff Powell, Jeremy Christian Principal at Julian, April Capuder Principal at Brooks, Teachers Elizabeth Kiefer, Joseph Casanovas, Adrienne Court and Board Secretary Lonya Boose.

OPEN SESSION

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

PUBLIC COMMENT

Martin Kokoszka

Good evening,

Will district 97 require all students to quarantine for two weeks if a student tests positive for COVID-19 in their class?

Will students be required to wear masks outside for recess and other outdoor activities?

Will these social justice lessons be mandatory for all students next school year?

How long are these social justice lessons and how frequently are they taught in the classrooms?

What is the trade off with putting social justice lessons into the daily school day? What are the social justice lessons taking the place of or minutes being reduced from other subjects? Thanks.

Sincerely, Martin Kokoszka

Megan Elsener

Dear Board-

It was exciting to hear the middle school's plans for graduation outside and in-person while also allowing for 3-4 guests per student. It will be a great memory for these students.

Therefore, it's disheartening to hear the district still is only allowing virtual ceremonies for the 5th grade classes. While initially plans for 5th grade send-offs may have been started under the 25 percent capacity guidelines, I ask that the district and board take into account that as of May 14th Illinois enters the Bridge Phase which allows for 60 percent capacity.

I don't see why the grade school 5th grade classes of 70-100 students can't be allowed to have outdoor, social distanced in-person ceremonies. The new updated guidelines allow for social events outside with up to 500 people. If the middle schools can figure out a plan, it seems clear that the grade schools should be allowed the same opportunity.

These students have lost so many memories, milestones and events over the past 15 months. To be able to end their grade school experience with an actual in-person event with their entire class would mean the world to these kids and be a semblance of normal for them. Please consider following the updated guidance and allowing for in-person 5th grade ceremonies.

Best, Megan Elsener

Latha Chekuru

Dear Board,

Thank you for all of your hard work. I urge the school district and the Board to extend flexibility for our students for the next school year as well. Please consider flexible options for the 2021-2022 school year such as remote when necessary, for students struggling to adjust, students with anxiety and medical issues (as is allowed currently for in person students -can do remote on days if necessary). We cannot assume all students will magically adjust to full time school easily. We also cannot assume every family is comfortable with returning to "normal" at the exact same time the school district deems it to be so.

Traditional school is ableist. This year we have learned there is more than one way "to do school" and now is the time for creativity and positive change that would serve the community's goal of equity. With the goal of equity, please offer in person students access to remote learning on days when necessary, instead of penalizing students with health and emotional challenges by forcing an absence.

Sincerely,
Latha Chekuru

Michelle Siu

Dear D97 Board,

On behalf of the 8th grade students of Julian and Brooks Middle Schools I write to seek Board review and approval of the traditional pre-graduation field trip to Great America Theme Park in Gurnee IL.

For many years this has been one of the highlights of the 8th grade year. As we move out of the pandemic restrictions, we ask the Board of Education to fully fund a proposal to send our 8th Graders to Great America. Utilizing the resources of District 97 would ensure that every 8th grade student (roomers & zoomers) would have the opportunity to participate and the trip would be planned using D97 testing & health safety requirements.

This would be a wonderful opportunity for the students at both middle schools to renew friendships with their classmates.

Regarding the costs -

There are three levels of admission -

Basic Admission \$35/pp

Group admission with lunch in a private picnic pavilion \$48.85/pp

Deluxe group admission with picnic pavilion lunch, limited snacks & unlimited drinks + souvenir cup \$52.25/pp

Bonus: 1 adult chaperone ticket free for every 25 kids!

The estimate devised by a Great America Group Sales associate for all 700 8th grade students - which is both schools at 100% participation rate - and 28 chaperones with deluxe package (including lunch, snacks & beverage) is \$36,575. This is for park fees and does not include transportation.

It's very possible and more likely that the number of students who choose to attend would reflect the 70-75% participation rate currently in-person at both schools. That lowers the estimate to \$29,260.

According to park associates masks are required, everyone is temp checked on the way in and lines are socially distanced.

Regarding the dates available...the park is not open every day until the week of May 30. The preferred date would be the traditional weekday, not a weekend.

Thank you,
Michelle Siu

Cassandra Miller

Live Comment: (audio is intermittent) Thank all the Board Members, existing and newly elected. I have 2 kids at Beye. I want to express my concerns with the ongoing problems at BEYE over the last year. I thought you should have a clear picture of the pain, hurt, distrust and toll it's taking on our students. Over the last six months, we have lost 2 (audio went out) of equal caliber. They had decades of experience in the district and respected by the community. There was an outpouring of support by the community with 100's of letters written. Not necessary the personnel issue, but timing and handling of how all this happened. Was the interest of our students at the forefront of this decision? It does not have to be so divisive. There is a growing mistrust by the parents on the direction the school is going. Climate of instability that affects the students moral. I am asking the Board today, to schedule a special meeting to openly discuss our concerns. Are you willing.... (comment was interrupted, exceeded time) (audio goes out).

ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEMS

Minutes

4.1.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE April 27, 2021 BOARD MEETING

Duffy moved, seconded by Kearney that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the April 27, 2021 board meeting as presented.

Ayes: Kim, Kearney, Moore, Spurlock, Duffy, Ross Dribin, Hurd Johnson

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Spurlock moved, seconded by Moore that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the consent agenda as presented.

4.2.1 Bill List

4.2.2 Personnel

4.2.3 Board Calendar Meeting Dates for SY22 (action 5/25/21)

Ayes: Kim, Kearney, Moore, Spurlock, Duffy, Ross Dribin, Hurd Johnson

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

General

5.1. Overnight and Out of State Field Trips (action 5/25/21)

The Board of Education annually approves the out-of-state and/or overnight field trips as defined by the individual schools. The list of identified trips for the 2021-22 school year will be shared with the board for approval during the May 25, 2021 board meeting. The motion for approval will take into consideration any limitations that are put in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

5.2. Fund Balance Transfer (action 5/25/21)

Annually, the Board of Education approves resolutions to move monies from one fund to another in order to balance fund(s). Historically, the board has approved a transfer of dollars from the Education Fund to the Debt Service Fund to cover equipment lease payments that must be paid from the Debt Service Fund.

Attached is the resolution to transfer \$285,994 from the Education Fund to the Debt Service Fund to cover payments under various purchase leases in the following amounts:

- Apple (Teacher Macbook Airs and Apple TVs) - \$194,370
- Apple (Staff iPads) - \$49,484
- Cisco (Telephone Communication System) - \$42,140

Motion

Administration is seeking a motion that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 approve the attached transfer resolution to transfer \$285,994 from the Education Fund to the Debt Service Fund to support the payment of lease obligations.

5.3. Resolution Designating Interest (action 5/25/21)

The Illinois State Board of Education requires that a school board must adopt a resolution annually in order to allow for the transfer of interest earned during the fiscal year to the funds of greatest need at a future time. In other words, the passage of this resolution will maximize the flexibility on the usage of interest earnings in future years. The Board of Education of Oak Park School District 97 has approved this resolution annually and it is recommended that the Board of Education approves the same resolution prior to June 30, 2021 in order to affect interest earned by the District during the current fiscal year.

5.4. Mann Elementary School Donation (action 5/25/21)

The Mann PTO would like to donate the money to purchase and install an ADA accessible gaga ball pit in the playground area. The gaga pit will provide students with another option for outside physical activity during PE and recess as well as reinforce fair play and good sportsmanship. The donation is valued at \$5,759.12.

Administration will be seeking a motion that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97 accepts the donation in the amount of \$5,759.12 at its May 25, 2021 meeting.

5.5 **RFQ Copier Proposal/Recommendation (action 5/25/21)** Print/Copier/Print Shop Solution Recommendation district-wide

Report format: Informational report along with in-person report at the board table with first review of copier/print shop solution and seeking contract approval in May 2021. We have also included the contracts that go along with this solution and wording that will be included in the addenda regarding our Service Level Agreement (SLA).

Preview of purpose and content of report: Below and the attached documents will provide an overview of the RFQ process, RFQ summary and recommendation for the copier/print shop vendor to complete work and provide service for the upcoming five years as laid out in the contract

Budgetary Impact: Decrease in annual budget will be estimated for at least \$80,000 each year for the next five years (with greater potential as we continue to transition more printing needs for students digitally). This will also impact the cost for paper each year as the needs will decrease as our output decreases.

Data to be presented: May 11, 2021

Over the past two months we have been planning and collaborating with a variety of stakeholders to organize a Response for Qualifications (RFQ) process to best meet Oak Park School District 97's print/copy needs. This process started in February 2021 with a group of administrators, teachers and administrative assistants. We held one meeting that was centered on learning what has worked, areas for improvement and any additional feedback to help in planning the renewal of our copier/print shop solution that has been successful over the last five years. This meeting included staff from various roles of admin, administrative assistant, teacher, teacher assistant, technology, business and print shop. During the initial planning meeting we heard positive feedback from the current solution, as well as, some minor suggestions or areas for improvement in the next solution with a focus on not creating too much change for staff if possible.

The committee members are as follows: Michael Arensdorff, Will Brackett, Anne Calvin, Patrick King, this committee met in March and April to discuss several topics, including:

- What is currently working
- Areas for improvement and ways to address them
- Goals for a new solution (possible single source vendor)
- Criteria for the RFQ D97 would issue to identify vendors/partner in order to provide a new solution
- Review of RFQ proposals

The RFQ was posted in the paper and sent out to a number of vendors that already shared interest in the previous RFQ and months leading up to this RFQ. All official responses to the RFQ were due on April 14. We received interest from nine vendors who said they intended to submit a proposal. In the end we received responses from the following vendors: Canon, and ImageTec. Upon receiving the proposals, Michael Arensdorff, Will Brackett, Anne Calvin and Patrick King (our committee leadership team) reviewed the proposals and completed independent reviews of all proposals for both the building copier solution and the Print Shop. In addition, the larger ad-hoc committee reviewed the proposals to provide feedback and ask questions for clarity from our team and from the vendors. Here are the members that participated in the Ad-hoc committee meetings: Anna Harlan, Mangela Martin, Donna Middleton, Lauren Giorango, Tasha Guerino, Tawanda Lawrence, Amanda Siegfried, Jacque Wallner, Taylor Furlong, Cory Marshall, Lindsay

Golemes and Therese Tencate.

Following these reviews and feedback, the final scores (after averaging both solutions – Print Shop & buildings) identified Canon as the best proposal for price, consistency and meeting our overall needs in the solution. ImageTec supplied a proposal for Konica Minolta machines that met the specs and would have been able to meet our needs, but the price was about \$25,000 higher annually. We made calls to all vendors to inform them and provide feedback regarding their proposals. We then set up a call with Canon and ImageTec representatives to review that information on Friday, April 16 and follow-up calls throughout the week of April 19. At that time, all of the questions, requested changes, concerns and expectations were shared for a final proposal and that proposal was provided on April 21. Given this final proposal from Canon and ImageTec, I am recommending entering into a 5-year contract with Canon for an annual cost of \$153,200 (with additional savings possible), which is an annual reduction of \$80,000.

We are bringing this recommendation to the Board for review in May; however, this contract will not be an increase in the forthcoming (2021-2022) operating budget or subsequent budgets. As you will see there is actually a decrease in our operating budget in overall contract. In addition, we have sent the attached contract to D97's legal counsel to review prior to the May 25 board meeting. Following potential Board approval of this recommendation on May 25, we will begin working with our staff to help them be prepared for the new units, however they will operate very similarly as the current units with some enhanced features. Similar to last time we will provide best practices, procedures, and staff with training on the new equipment prior to the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

Canon has been a valued partner throughout our current contract to ensure we have the best solution that continues to be the most cost effective via quarterly meetings with opportunities to decrease allotments as we continue to make the digital transition, as well as, provide a detailed SLA (Service Level Agreement). Some additional areas that we focused on for the contract was: 5-year contract with the SLA guarantees in place to either have devices replaced and/or refunds for units that are not producing to the standards in the contract. Canon has worked closely with us to provide a solution that will ensure we have taken into account the decrease of printing we have seen in the return from COVID (so far) and the ability to cost effectively adapt for any increase as we get back to the new normal.

Canon provides a very high level of familiarity with all staff as all schools have been using Canon units for the past 10 years. We will work to educate our staff on why it is so important to **streamline this solution** to provide **equity** across all staff in a way that is **cost effective** and **efficient** (which is also our committee goals). In addition to this RFQ process Canon has gone through the Omnia Partners statewide bidding process and won this contract. They have supplied pricing similar to that contract bidding process.

The final step will be to implement the new solution districtwide at the end of June/early July 2021. This will include the 10 buildings, print shop, warehouse and admin building.

In conclusion, this process has been extremely detailed and thorough with feedback from multiple staff groups. We were fortunate to have a great group of staff members that volunteered their time to participate in the committee over the last couple months. Their feedback and insight was extremely valuable and has been crucial to the overall success/outcome we are presenting to the Board of Education for District 97.

5.6 Authority to Pay Bills and Hire Staff during months of June, July and August (action 5/25/21)

With the Board of Education holding only one Board meeting a month during the summer of 2021, administration is requesting that during the May 25, 2021 Board meeting, the Board grant administration the authority to pay summer bills prior to Board approval. This will ensure that all bills are paid on time and no penalties or interest is incurred.

In addition, administration is requesting that the Board grant them the authority to hire staff for open positions between Board meetings, if needed. This will ensure that District 97 can offer positions to the best qualified staff before the start of the school year without delay. All new hires and expenditures will be included on the next Board agenda and provided for the Board’s review.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

6.1 Calendar Recommendations SY22 and SY23

The District 97 Calendar Committee met on April 20, 2021. The committee reviewed the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 draft school calendars. They also created the draft 2022-2023 school calendar. All three calendars are considered draft calendars until May of the final year of each calendar when the Board will take action and officially designate the last day for the school year.

2020-2021 Calendar - The Board approved the amended 2020-2021 School Calendar on August 21, 2020 at a Special Board Meeting. No changes were made to the approved calendar. The designated last day of school for the 2020-2021 school year will be June 10, 2021. Final board action will be taken on May 25, 2021.

2021-2022 Amended Calendar - After review of educator feedback and in order to align the with the 2022-2023 school calendar, the following changes to the 2021-2022 school calendar are being recommended:

Event	Original	Amended
Teacher Institute Days	Friday, August 20 and Monday, August 23	Monday, August 23 and Tuesday, August 24
First day of student attendance	Tuesday, August 24	Wednesday, August 25
Winter Break	December 20 - December 31	December 20 - January 3
Last day of student attendance (without emergency days)	Friday, June 3	Tuesday, June 7

2022-2023 Proposed Calendar - The committee has completed its work on a proposed calendar for the 2022-2023 school year. This proposed calendar complies with the number of student attendance days that are required by the Illinois School Code and the number of staff attendance days from the district's current collective bargaining agreements.

The Calendar Committee created the draft calendar according to the following goals:

- 1) alignment with District 200's major breaks (Thanksgiving, winter and spring),
- 2) clustering days of non-attendance whenever possible,
- 3) balancing the length of trimesters,
- 4) late start due to building construction, and

- 5) placing parent-teacher conferences at a point during the trimester that allows students time to address any performance concerns.

Attached, please find the final 2020-2021 school calendar, amended 2021-2022 school calendar, and proposed 2022-2023 school calendar.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Back to School Update

Interim Superintendent, Dr. Wernet: The past two weeks we have reached another important milestone as our elementary and middle school students and staff began full days of in-person instruction. The buildings are well-prepared for Covid-19 cases and contact tracing. The department of Public Health guidelines are strictly followed.

We have certainly learned many lessons during the COVID-19 emergency and we are reminded that students care about school. Students, parents, and school staff had to adapt and change both at home and at school. Everyone has risen to this challenge while having a unique school year and sacrificing much to help keep others safe.

The once in a century event has caused us to unlearn and to approach needs in a new and novel way. We need to focus on what is best for our students and their learning experiences. When we return for SY22 we know that students will think differently. Therefore, we need to adapt. With that being said, we would like to present our plans for SY22. With our students returning to full-person learning, we have received joint guidance/guidelines from ISBE and the Illinois Department of Public Health.

‘Students with underlying medical conditions or students who live with family members who are at risk of severe illness per ISBE guidelines’ as of this date, this is our only option for remote learning. We do not believe we can expand beyond individual students medically fragile. Also, we do not have the guidance and updates from ISBE to better understand what the District will need to do to provide remote learning for expanded groups. We do not know when this guidance will become available.

The re-opening plans were shared with our parents on April 30, 2021. On May 7, 2021, we shared a form with families who fit the criteria for requesting remote learning for SY22. Because we do not know when or if the guidelines will change, we will continue with the current guidelines and further explore the other options with a potential start date of third trimester. At this time, it is in the exploring stage as we await new rulings.

We do have an e-learning plan that will be utilized if/when the district needs to call a snow day. Discussion is taking place at ISBE level that will combine the remote learning plan and the e-learning plan. However, at this time, they are two separate plans.

Eboney Lofton presents details on SY22 plans which include the following potential options based on current data:

- multiage remote classrooms if there are a sufficient number of students at each grade level
- Cohorted live streaming/Zoom
- Homebound instructional model (one hour of 1:1 instruction daily)
- Third party virtual learning academy

Expanding criteria in alignment with our equity policy:

- Students who were present for the majority of the school year (absences that total less than 10% of school days of the most recent academic year including absences with and without valid cause)
- Students who present as engaged using tools such as the continuum of engagement from The Distance Learning Playbook, K-12.
- Students who met average academic growth markers and do not demonstrate a need for tiered interventions
- Students who have demonstrated appropriate use of technology (appropriate use of Zoom features, adherence to AUP)

Student supports in preparation for SY22:

- The provisions of Saturday school during the 2020-21 school year
- Summer programs including the Step-up Program and Summer Boost Camp
- Addition of interventionists
- Vertical and horizontal articulation sessions
- Smaller class sizes
- 1:1 Devices for all students
- Internet for all for home internet access

Vaccines and Safety Reminders

- FDA approval of Pfizer vaccine for children ages 12 and up

The decisions we make during these next few weeks have a direct impact on our ability to maximize in-person learning for our students through the end of the school year. Whether you are vaccinated or unvaccinated, we all have a responsibility to follow ALL safety guidelines set by the state and the local health departments in order to reduce the potential spread of the virus.

Board Member comments: I think we need to be a bit more explicit, not just grace. What I am hearing is not very kind to or fair to our staff who is working very hard. I appreciate the work that Oak Park Health is doing, but others seem to be lessening the time out for quarantine, are we reaching out to check current requirements?

Amanda Siegfried comments: I have spoken with Jim Hackett our School Safety Manager, while also working with the village. The village has a new public health director, a changing of the guard. What we have been doing, is reviewing guidelines and best practices. ISBE frequently asked questions do state a 14-day quarantine, and no testing out of this time frame we will work with the new public health director for continued input.

Board Member comments: I am a Julian parent, of a quarantined Julian student. I have seen this process work. There are messages going out from Principal Christian with updates on these situations, he has gotten a lot of heat for this. I think you are doing a good job of providing communication.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH PROPOSAL

Presented by Ebony Lofton, Tawanda Lawrence, Faith Cole, Jeremy Christian, April Capuder, Joseph Casanovas and Elizabeth Kiefer.

Vision for Middle School Mathematics in District 97.

Mission Statement: The curricula focus will allow for common student experiences that include real world context that is focused on research based best practices. Students will develop reasoning and problem-solving skills while exploring engaging CCSS aligned materials. Technology infused instruction, student centered approach to support risk-taking and support the development of a growth mindset.

Classroom tasks will be differentiated while promoting collaboration and perseverance in our community of learners.....

Areas of Opportunity include:

- Summer programs seek to replicate between 1, 1.5, and 2 years of learning in 2.5 weeks
- Summer Enrichment End of Program exams are not generated by the math department
- District 97 is likely the only district in the U.S. that offers 8th Grade Math and 10th grade Geometry
- Class naming system can be misleading
- Lack of adequate tiered resources and additional supports

Proposed Components

- Offer five standards-based math classes instead of six accelerated/traditional classes
- Create a transparent process for advancement with vetted metrics
- Communicate the process to parents
- Seek supports in the form of math interventionists and access the supplemental resources
- Revamp the Summer Math Enrichment Program for SY21-22

Courses

- Each course is broken down by grade level content
 - o 6th grade, 7th grade, 8th grade, Algebra 1, Geometry
- Alleviates skipping standards for advancement
- Students can gain access to advancement at any point

Process

- Students will be appropriately placed upon vetted data to ensure accurate course placement
 - o 6th Grade Mathematics Placement Exam
 - o NWEA Map (6th-8th) Spring Administration
 - o School Referral
- All stakeholders will be part of the process

Parent Communication

- Communicate expectations of accelerated courses
- Champion grade level classes
- Communicate pathways for all students to reach calculus

Provisions of Research-Based Interventions

- Support the implementation of research-based intervention (current pilot in 6th grade instructional courses Math 180)
- Provide a mathematics interventionist at each middle school

Summer Math Enrichment

- Move towards an eight-week course linked to SOAR/Before/After School instruction
- Instruction will be directly linked to what is currently being done in mathematics classes

Timeline

- Revise Summer Bridge End of Program Exams in partnership with Mathematics Department April-May 2021
- Implement Adopted Algebra Resources in Math8/9 and SOAR August 2021
- Provide Mathematics Support from Interventionists August 2021
- Work to expand access to Algebra and Revamp Summer Math Enrichment Program January 2022-Summer 2022
- Update Criteria for Mathematics Course Placement Spring 2022
- Implement 5-Course Mathematics Framework August 2022

BOARD ASSIGNMENTS

F.O.R.C Update: FORC will meet Monday May 17, 2021

C.L.A.I.M Update: CLAIM committee recently met with state elected officials. This was really informative especially the legislative forum, addressing questions from the community. Currently, there is a Bill on Data Sharing, working its way through legislature end of May. Committee hearing coming Thursday where this Bill is up for vote. This is compelling. I will keep everyone posted.

O.P.E.F Update: Magic night is May 21, 2021 and camps are open for registration.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

BOARD REMARKS

CONCLUDING
ITEMS

Asian Heritage Month: Bill to include information on Asian American History is in the works. Next week D97 & D200 will have a joint event. D97 Board President Jung Kim will be speaking at this event. Bill# 376 initiated by Rep from Glenview with Oak Park ties.

Board Member Comments: Thank You Dr. Wernet we are grateful for the work you have done as Interim Superintendent.

AGENDA MAINTENANCE

The draft agenda for the May 25, 2021 meeting was reviewed.

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

Kim moved, seconded by Duffy that the meeting be adjourned. There being no further business to conduct, Vice President Kim declared the meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary