

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
February 8, 2011**

President Traczyk called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

Present: Clouser, Gates, Harton, Spatz and Traczyk

Absent: Barber, Reddy

Also Present: Superintendent Al Roberts, Human Resources Director Trish Carlson, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations Therese O'Neill, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Kevin Anderson, Director of Special Education Mike Padavic, Communications Coordinator Chris Jасulca, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Clouser moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 6:37 p.m. Roll call vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Nays: None

Absent: Barber, Reddy

Motion passed.

OPEN SESSION

Gates moved, seconded by Harton, that the Board of Education move into open session at 7:11 p.m. Roll call vote.

OPEN SESSION

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

Nays: None

Absent: Barber, Reddy

Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

SPECIAL REPORTS

FACE-IT PROGRAM

This presentation was tabled.

SPECIAL REPORTS

IRVING PTO WORLD LANGUAGE PROGRAM

John Hodge introduced parents/instructors Isabelle Henry, Dima Khalida and teacher Silvia Zaragoza. Sabine Oberberger, another parent/instructor, arrived later in the presentation. The team reported that the lunchtime and after school program was started four years ago by Irving parents. The classes meet for one hour a week for 12 to 15 weeks and are led by native speakers of the targeted languages. The program has offered Spanish, Mandarin, German, Arabic, Italian, French, Malaysian and Greek. With a class size of eight to 10 children, the goal of the program is to offer a relaxed fun environment where children can acquire language skills and learn about the culture of other countries.

It was reported that the World Language Program is financially independent, funded solely by tuition paid by families of the participating children. Scholarships are offered to anyone who wishes to participate in the program.

IRVING PTO WORLD LANGUAGE PROGRAM (Continued)

Henry shared that the participants are very diverse in their learning abilities and range from kindergarten through fifth grade students, with the majority of the participants in first and second grade.

Interest was expressed in seeing data that might identify if the students who participate in this program excel in other academic areas.

MENTORING

Kevin Anderson, Lynne Beauprez, and Faith Cole introduced the new teacher mentoring program to the Board. This program supports all teachers new to the district. The mentoring and induction program plan was approved by the Illinois State Board of Education 11 years ago. The goal of the program is to increase student outcomes through better teacher effectiveness and teacher retention. The mentors assist new teachers in developing the skills and strategies necessary for instructional excellence. Currently, 35 percent of the staff is in non-tenure status.

The team explained that the program operates in a variety of ways. Lead mentors present a session at new teacher orientation explaining the mentoring program expectations and activities for new staff. Each school has one or two trained building mentors who support staff on a day to day basis. Lead mentors train and meet with district building mentors throughout the year. Handbooks were created and are made available to the new employees.

First year teachers take a 30 hour U97 class where they are introduced to the procedures within their school and the district. Each building has one classroom teacher serving as a mentor for up to five new staff members. The mentors observe the new staff in a classroom setting at least three times a year. Lead mentor peer observations begin with a pre-conference, followed by observations and data collection. The process ends with a post-observation conversation and written feedback. Second and fourth year teachers are observed on an as needed basis. These observations and the feedback are always confidential between the mentor and the new staff.

The program goals for next year include considering a one-on-one mentor basis. Ongoing training needs would need to be considered, as well as creating and offering a year-long seminar for all non-tenured teachers. The team would also like to consider working more with the second year staff and increasing principal and building mentor training to support the induction of the new staff. Additionally, the team would like to include input from the principals in the creation of future program goals.

Interest was expressed in:

- Hearing how the mentors are working with the new staff and the evaluation tool
- Hearing about year-end program feedback and how the program increases performance
- Data was requested to identify the amount of time actually spent with the new staff
- Is the program finding the very best mentors
- What are the comments and thoughts of those who participate in the program
- Are the teachers getting what they need out of the program
- What do the mentor leaders mean when they say they meet with other probationary teachers as time allows
- Consider use of retired teachers in this program
- What is the typical week in the mentor leaders life
- Videotaping was suggested as a training tool
- Consider how to help teachers adjust to change
- Hear more about how the mentors assist teachers with homework compliance versus achievement

ACTION ITEMS

3.1.1 Approval of Minutes of January 16, 2011

Clouser moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the January 16, 2011 special meeting. Roll call vote.

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

3.1.2 Approval of Minutes of January 18, 2011

Gates moved, seconded by Clouser, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the January 18, 2011 special meeting. Roll call vote.

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

3.1.3 Approval of Minutes of January 25, 2011

Gates moved, seconded by Clouser, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the January 25, 2011 meeting with revisions. Roll call vote.

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

3.2.1 Bill List and Related Reports

Clouser moved, seconded by Harton, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the Bill List and Related Reports. Roll call vote.

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

3.3.1 Calendar Adoption 2011-2012

Gates moved, seconded by Harton, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the school calendar for the 2011-2012 school year. Roll call vote.

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

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Roberts addressed the need to close the schools for two days due to the blizzard. He publicly thanked the district and village staff members who cleared snow making it safe for the youngsters.

Dr. Roberts attended the Whittier dance assembly, which focused on enhancing reading skills.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT- (Continued)

Trish Carlson will be meeting with individual teachers who are identified on the reduction list. Dr. Roberts has already met with the administrators regarding this topic.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
(continued)

The Collaborative Communication Committee met last night. Five community members were in attendance.

The district is reviewing the discipline procedures/policies to ensure they are in compliance.

Dr. Roberts reminded the Board that as the district moves forward with the referendum, everyone needs to focus on a vision of hopes and dreams.

BOARD CONCERNS

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During the February 7 ED-RED meeting, keynote speaker, Charles P. Rose, General Counsel for the U.S. Department of Education, encouraged the 100,000+ school board members across the country to "relay a sense of urgency to reauthorize the ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act)."

The Illinois Association of School Boards is hosting a Data First for School Governance Workshop on Saturday, March 26, 2011. Member Spatz showed interest in attending. Interest was expressed about the possibility of the two Board candidates attending this meeting.

The annual Early Childhood Symposium will be held at Julian Middle School on Saturday, February 26, 2011. Admission will be charged at the door.

The Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC) is scheduled to meet next Tuesday, February 15, 2011. New members will be in attendance during this meeting.

It was suggested that the three districts (D90, D200 and D97) consider holding a joint meeting after the election in April. It was also suggested that the sharing of data between the elementary and high school districts be discussed at that time.

Congratulations were extended to the Brooks robotics team for winning the Vex Robotics competition.

It was shared that the Lincoln School carnival was a success.

Copies of the superintendent evaluation forms were distributed. These documents will be discussed at the next meeting.

Member Gates volunteered to attend the Citizens Council on Thursday, March 10, 2011, due to Member Clouser's absence.

A concern regarding the January 25, 2011 minutes was shared. It was noted that in the Board concern section, a comment was made regarding dashboard policies. After a brief discussion it was determined that the dashboard items in question were from the working cash bond policy/procedures draft discussed and that if the two comments made in the January 25, 2011 minutes were combined (see below), they reflected the statement accurately.

It was agreed that the working cash bond policy/procedures recently drafted by the policy committee will no longer be necessary since the Board agreed to pursue a limiting rate referendum and not a working cash bond referendum. However, it was suggested that some of the dashboard items from the policies/procedures draft be raised with FORC.

BOARD CONCERNS - (Continued)

It was suggested that Board minutes be considered as a retreat topic in the future. Interest was expressed in identifying the practice for written items being attached to the minutes. It was suggested that the ability to identify statements made within the minutes would be helpful.

Member Harton will send the information she has regarding the ombudsman position to President Traczyk prior to the March 1, 2011 meeting.

Members Spatz and Gates will send information to the Board regarding the LAC discussion scheduled for March 1, 2011.

It was reported that the Illinois State Board of Education awarded Mann School with the Academic Excellence Award. 459 schools in the state of Illinois earned this award in 2010.

BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT - None

BOARD RESPONSE
TO PUBLIC
COMMENT

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Harton moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 8:55 p.m. Roll call vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

OPEN SESSION

Gates moved, seconded by Harton, that the Board of Education move into open session at 9:37 p.m. Roll call vote.

OPEN SESSION

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Traczyk declared the meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be on Tuesday, February 22, 2011, beginning at 7 p.m. at the administration building located at 970 Madison Street.

Board President

Board Secretary