

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97
260 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
May 8, 2018 Meeting**

President Spurlock called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Spatz, Spurlock, O'Connor, Liebl, Breymaier, Broy (arrived at 6:45 p.m.),
and Datta (arrived at 7:56 p.m.)

Absent: None

Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Carol Kelley, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Dr. Alicia Evans, Assistant Superintendent for HR Laurie Campbell, Chief Academic and Accountability Officer Dr. Amy Warke, Senior Director of Special Services Eboney Lofton, Senior Director of Administrative Services Dr. Felicia Starks Turner, Senior Director of Equity Dr. Carrie Kamm, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Spatz moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education move into Executive Session at 6:00 p.m. to discuss (Collective Negotiations 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(2), Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees or Legal Counsel for the District 5 ILCS 1202(C)(1), Collective Negotiations 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(2), Purchase or Lease of Real Property 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(5))

OPEN SESSION

Broy moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education move into Open Session at 6:46 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement. The meeting reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING TEACHER APPRECIATION

President Spurlock read a Resolution declaring the week of May 7, 2018 as Teacher Appreciation Week, seconded by Liebl. President Spurlock thanked the teachers for their support of the District 97 children. Roll call vote.

TEACHER
APPRECIATION

Ayes: Spurlock, Liebl, Spatz, Breymaier, O'Connor, Datta, and Broy

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

PUBLIC
COMMENT

PUBLIC COMMENT

Diana Mirel, an Oak Park resident, read a letter for a Mann third grade parent. The letter stated that her son is in the smallest third grade class at Mann School, and he is also one of the smallest students. She has seen a rise in bullying in the third grade at Mann, but does not blame the staff. The staff doing the best they can. She supports smaller classrooms to support learning, and does not support the fact that teachers are stretched between other needs. She expressed concern that the kids have fewer resources. She reminded the Board that higher class sizes do not support learning.

Shobha Mahada, an Oak Park resident, shared that she has addressed the Board before. She read a letter written by Rachel Ratburn, who suggested that education should be a passion and children should come first. She has worked in early childhood education for 20 years, and urged the Board to put the kids first. Class size has an enormous impact on the learning. She shared that her son is in third grade at Mann School and does not want to see him in large classes again. She reminded the Board that during the election they promised to lower the class sizes. She shared that she is a new voter and sorry that a promise has been broken.

Ted Staszak, an Oak Park resident, reminded the Board that he addressed their meeting two weeks ago regarding class sizes. He told them that the third grade class at Mann is suffering this year, and shared examples why this is not helpful. He reported that he, along with other parents are scheduled to meet with Dr. Kelley next week. He shared that he is addressing the Board again because the parents are confused about the timeline to address this issue. Dr. Kelley stated that sections are based on registrations, and at her discretion, but the referendum indicated that class sizes would be kept below state averages. He noted that the statistics show that the promises are not being kept. He shared that the class sizes are up 30 percent from 2017, with the class size average in Oak Park at 24.6, and the state average at 22.2. He suggested that the class sizes in the middle and upper grades are even larger. Staszak explained that the community is concerned that the larger class sizes will negatively impact the kids.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Staszak asked for answers now, and requested that the Board make this concern a priority. He suggested that the Board pass a resolution for the administration to address this issue by the 2018-2019 school year.

Ellen Somberg, an Oak Park resident, shared that she has a third grader in a large class. She reported that her daughter is doing okay, but shared that there is no doubt that the large class is affecting her daughters learning. She reminded the Board that the referendum included promises, and suggested that the Board live up to its word. She reminded the Board that the kids were told that the large class size was a mistake and would be corrected next year, but that was not the truth. She asked the Board to look at the model we want our kids to live by and reflect that behavior.

Molly Hong, an Oak Park resident, parent of a third grader, and middle school teacher, shared that she knows about class size, and suggested that more than 24 students in any class is a big deal. She explained that more students means more parent contact, and more work for the teacher. Hong expressed concern for the children who might get lost in larger class sizes.

President Spurlock shared that the Board has been discussing class sizes and will communicate a decision once it has been made.

David Gullo, an Oak Park resident, active citizen, realtor, and parent of a third grader and fifth grader at Mann School, shared a graph that the MLS printed. He suggested that the Board is not getting enrollment data in a timely manner. He explained that the peak real estate closing season is May through July, and suggested looking at the process to ensure more up to date closings data is available. He noted that in late August, 15 male students enrolled into the fifth grade. It had a tremendous impact. Gullo asked administration to keep an eye out, and offered assistance from the Board of Realtors.

Marty Bernstein, an Oak Park resident for 25 years, had three children who went through the District 97 schools. He shared that he voted against the referendum last year. He noted that the increase would have been substantial and residents do not have the ability to increase their incomes to compensate. He asked the Board to stop spending money. He suggested that if they want to hire more teachers, they should find something in the budget to get rid of. He encouraged the Board to do whatever they need to do to get the class sizes down so kids get a good education.

SPECIAL REPORT

SPECIAL REPORT

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS – FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Alicia Evans, and Jeanne Keane came to the table with STR Architect Jennifer Costanzo and Peter Kuhn from Bulley and Andrews.

Holmes School Update

It was reported that the Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC) met last week to discuss the pending projects and consider the summer construction needs. It was reported that the Irving roof needs replacement and Lincoln School needs a door replacement. The committee received an update on the Holmes School construction status, which was reported to be on schedule, with completion before school begins in the fall. Currently, the utility relocation has been completed and the slabs have been poured. The steel on the east addition has been completed and the west side has been started. It was reported that the buildout will be the main focus after school closes for the summer. Evans reported that the budget is right on target.

Lincoln School Update

Keane reported that Lincoln School will be short one second grade classroom and options are still being considered. The team is considering converting a classroom that will be involved in the renovations scheduled for next year. She explained that they could convert an existing office into a classroom space that would hold 18 students. Special Education would need to be moved over to accommodate this change.

Costanzo explained that Lincoln School will be overpopulated by fall 2018. She recommended extending the west side of the multipurpose room and including closed access to the west side of the auditorium allowing for ADA access. An elevator would be installed allowing access to the third floor. She recommended a three floor addition to the north of the existing building that would include four classrooms, toilets, and a multipurpose room on the first floor that could be used for band or orchestra, and a STEM lab. The construction would also include renovations to offices and create a kindergarten wing. She noted that all new spaces would be climate controlled. Some Life Safety work would be done at the same time, including new windows in the entire building. Evans reported that the estimated cost is about \$19,800,000, which is about \$14,500 more than anticipated. She noted that the life safety, ADA and HVAC is separate and will cost

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS – FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS (Continued)
about \$7,300,000 which will come from a different account. She explained that the addition needs stem from more students than planned on, and making sure that the classrooms are the correct size to support learning.

It was noted that the STEM lab is new to the district, but it has been the plan all along to create a STEM lab in each school as they are having work done.

Board comments including interest in knowing if the district could absorb the additional students into other areas. Concern was expressed that the extra space needs might be temporary and by changing the school boundaries the district could accommodate the additional students. Interest was expressed to seeing some of the decision making notes (thought process); seeing options considered and decisions made.

Interest was expressed in knowing what the ripple effects would be for the other schools that will require additions and repairs. Dr. Kelley explained that Lincoln and Longfellow are the last two schools that will require expansions. After that, modifications will be limited to climate control, life safety and ADA.

Member Spatz explained that STR completed a capacity study for all of the schools in 2015. The study showed that Irving and Beye are down from their maximum enrollment, but are still over the minimum class size level. He indicated that the other schools do not have room to take on students from Lincoln School.

Dr. Kelley explained that projections were used to size the referendum, but explained that the figures are not an overage. She suggested a joint meeting with the Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC) to help the Board make a decision.

Longfellow School Update

It was noted that the plans for the Longfellow addition still need some work, and there are no particular construction savings by having both Lincoln and Longfellow done in the same year.

Member Datta arrived at 7:56 p.m.

Principal Dolezal explained that Longfellow has five Kindergarten classrooms, one is team taught. The projections are above the enrollment for this time of year. Because of this, the team taught classroom will need to be larger next year. She reported that the second largest group is about to roll up into third grade. There are about 100 students moving up and there is not enough space for them. Dolezal explained that she walked the building with Jeanne Keane and Alicia Evans, but was not able to find a temporary solution. Additionally, she noted that Longfellow has not had many upgrades to the building since she is there (2000-2001), and it has been about 16-17 years since the school received the updates that they truly need. She noted that the special area classrooms are smaller than the regular classrooms and the building does not have an elevator.

Board comments included interest in seeing what was budgeted, see the costs associated with the Life Safety work, and what has been completed to date. Interest was also expressed in knowing if it would make more sense to do the work at Lincoln and Longfellow simultaneously, and to the numbers showing capacity at the maximum class sizes.

It was agreed that the Board wanted to see the numbers for Lincoln and Longfellow together before making a decision. The Board Secretary was asked to send out a Doodle to identify a date for a joint meeting with FAC.

Landscaping

Keane explained that the Board will be asked to approve a one year contract for lawn care that does not include chemicals. She asked the Board to waive the two meeting rule for adoption and take action this evening.

BUDGET AMENDMENT

Evans began by reminding the Board that they decided not to issue the \$10,000,000 in DSEB this year. Additionally, she noted that the warehouse will not be sold this year, the district will not receive new dollars from the Evidence Based Funding, since the budget amendment that was presented to the Board but the district will receive additional dollars from the prior year general state aid (PYGSA). Therefore, she changed the budget's projected balance from \$39,441,470 to \$30,351,805. The budget will go on display for 30 days with the final approval in June. Once the amended budget has been approved, it will be filed and the figures will be included in the forecast 5 projections.

Evans noted that the 2018-2019 budget is scheduled for approval in September.

TECHNOLOGY PLAN UPDATE

Michael Arensdorff came to the table along with teacher Tim Walsh. Arensdorff explained that the Technology Plan is focused on aligning targeted strategies and professional practices, with a goal of supplying equitable access to rigorous responsive instruction to all students.

To do this, the following goals were set;

- Raised new staff minimum technology requirement
- Professional development (adaptive/scaffolded/relevant)
- Coach mindset (teachers and administration)
- Modeled technology skills
- Promoted student learning experiences via Twitter communication
- Unite technology and curriculum planning
- Reimagined Technical Advisory Committee (student centered)
- Received approval from Superintendent and Board, supported by student and staff voice and multiple committees
- Improve reliability, uptime and coverage (technology now mission critical)
- Implemented Community Wi-Fi (Internet For All)
- Learning Management System (LMS)
- Teacher portal and repository
- Middle School Innovation Teams

Arensdorff explained that this year is the end of the two year Technology Advisory Committee commitment, and he recommended reimagining this committee.

He reported that since 2015, the district has upgraded 13 systems that affect payroll and billing, enrollment, unified bell and paging systems, community communications, the phone system and numerous online curriculum resources.

He noted that there are a lot of innovators available and suggested a rapid pilot process be put in place. The process would include research and development, cross district collaboration through a cohort of professional learning, and changing the physical environment (e.g. single desks to team tables, reimagining media center spaces).

Walsh shared examples of how technology supports learning, creativity and independent thinking. He reported that students are building robots, repairing broken items and creating new items. He shared that the Technology grant which was used for funding this year, helped bridge technology, and humanities.

Arensdorff recommended that the following items be considered for continuous improvement;

- Isolated intended outcomes in instructional technology usage
- Deeper collaboration with teaching and learning, specifically around professional learning
- Build capacity for key levers with a common vision
- More opportunities for parent education/learning annually
- Build out streamlined resources (less siloes)
- Ongoing evaluation for future decisions

The three-year technology budget and expenses were shared, indicating that revenue has increased in this area enough to cover expenses and supply a bit of surplus for SY18.

Arensdorff thanked the Technology Advisory members (students, parents, community, teacher/staff and teacher subcommittee), and the Vision Team (students, staff and parents) who worked on Saturdays to look at what success would look like in three years. They worked on success, obstacles and how to overcome challenges.

2018-2021 Technology Plan budget was shared. Arensdorff explained that the department will continue to look for ways to save money like it did by changing the voice system and copy machines.

This item will return to the Board for action on June 12, 2018.

SUMMER PROGRAMMING UPDATE

Amy Warke and Helen Wei came to the table. They shared a brief overview of the summer program planning process and reported that the school day is being extended by 30 minutes to include math. The offerings will include;

- K-4 Summer Launch: Reading/Writing Workshop and Math Enrichment (June 13 – July 11, serving Tier 3 students)
- 5-8 Summer Launch: Project-Based Learning (June 13 – July 11, serving Tier 3 students)
- 6-8 Summer Math (June 11 – June 29, serving incoming sixth – eighth grade students. Tuition-based)
- 5-8 Summer Music Camp (July 30 – August 3, serving incoming students for instrumental music, incoming fourth – eighth grade students for choral/general music. Tuition-based)

Wei shared the current enrollment numbers, noting that 164 students have currently registered for one of the programs.

Wei shared some highlights of the programs noting that the fifth and sixth graders will be creating a welcome night for sixth graders in the fall. They will interview people, make a survey and collect data. The seventh and eighth graders will participate in the Julian Media Center redesign. They will interview architects, members of Buildings and Grounds, and determine what the needs are in order to make an innovative space. Their project is scheduled for completion in October.

Wei noted that the Summer Math Program will be a two hour session that focuses on math instruction and review or acceleration.

The Summer Music Camp will reinforce musical and technical skills in a fun ensemble. Students will learn cooperative performance skills with their peers, and create a performance to demonstrate the skills learned at the camp.

Wei reported that with a partnership with Summer Empowerment, Friday Night Place, Concordia University, and the Oak Park Township, wraparound day camp will also be available after hours at the same location.

Dr. Kelley shared that the E-Team will be running a program that begins after the district's program end to offer options to the children into August. The programs are focusing on after-school hours safe school activities; however, the E-Team is collecting data on student interests for the future.

Board comments included interest in knowing how many of the summer enrollment students do not have access to the design course during the school year and wondering if they could have access to the program during the summer.

ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEMS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 10, 2018 AND APRIL 24, 2018 BOARD MEETINGS

Spatz moved, seconded by O'Connor that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the April 10, 2018 and the April 24, 2018 Board meetings. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Spatz, O'Connor, Liebl, Breymaier, Datta, Spurlock, and Broy

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Spatz moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the consent agenda as presented.

4.2.1 Approval of Bill List

4.2.2 Approval of Personnel

4.2.3 Approval of 2017-2018 Board Meeting Calendar

4.2.4 Renewal of Probationary Teachers – Year 1-4

Ayes: Spatz, O'Connor, Breymaier, Liebl, Spurlock, and Datta

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: Broy

Motion passed.

4.3.1 APPROVAL OF 2017-2018 BUDGET AMENDMENT

O'Connor moved, seconded by Broy, that the Board of Education, District 97, adopt its Tentative 2017-2018 budget amendment in the total amount of \$103,561, thus placing such tentative budget on display for a minimum of 30 days and calling for a public hearing of said budget on June 12, 2018.

Ayes: O'Connor, Broy, Breymaier, Spatz, Liebl, Spurlock, and Datta
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

4.3.2 APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL STAFFING

Breymaier moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the Additional Staffing Request for FY19. This request includes the following changes for FY19:

- Replacing the Student Support Specialists at Holmes and Irving with Assistant Principals
- Adding a Student Support Specialist position at Hatch
- Adding four Social Workers to be assigned at Longfellow, Holmes, Irving, Lincoln, Julian and Brooks
- Adding a school psychologist to be assigned at the schools
- Adding four special education teachers as part of the expansion of the co-teaching model for special education
- Adding three multi-tiered system of support interventionists to be assigned at Holmes, Longfellow, and Lincoln Schools

Ayes: Breymaier, Spatz, Liebl, Datta, O'Connor, Broy, and Spurlock
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

4.3.3 APPROVAL OF 2017-2018 FINAL SCHOOL CALENDAR

Spatz moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the final Calendar for the 2017-2018 school year, declaring Friday, June 1, 2018, as the final half-day of student attendance for this school year and declaring Monday, June 4, 2018, as the final half-day of work for teaching staff.

Ayes: Spatz, O'Connor, Broy, Liebl, Breymaier, Spurlock, and Datta
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

4.3.4 APPROVAL OF LEAP AGREEMENT

O'Connor moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the Brooks Middle School seventh grade team to participate in the LEAP Pilot Network Cohort 5. The contract not to exceed \$27,500.

Ayes: O'Connor, Spatz, Liebl, Broy, Breymaier, Spurlock, and Datta
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

ADMINISTRATIVE
ITEMS

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

VILLAGE PARKING LOT AGREEMENT

Evans met with the Village parking enforcement team to review the expired parking lot agreement for the Brooks and Julian Middle School lots. She reported that the Village approved the revised document recently, and she asked the Board to take action on May 22, 2018.

Evans reported that the Village is considering extending the parking time along Madison Street from two hours to three hours for employees, and modifying the signage behind the district office.

ANNUAL CUSTODIAL SUPPLY BID

Evans reported that the custodial supply bid is approved by the Board annually. She noted that the process was modified last year to use Warehouse Direct, and she shared that Warehouse Direct is the winning bidder this year as well. She shared that the bid is about \$14,000 more than last year, but noted that some items have been added.

This item will return to the Board on May 22, 2018 for action.

ANNUAL DUST MOPS AND TOWELS BID

Evans noted that the Dust Mop and Towel bid is also an annual item needing Board approval. Cintas was the lowest bidder this year. This item will return to the Board for action on May 22, 2018.

DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY

Evans shared that over the next few months, several disposal requests will come to the Board. This is due to the schools weeding out old books. She noted that there is an additional list from Holmes School, and the Irving and Julian items will be added before approval. This item will return to the Board for action on May 22, 2018.

HEPHZIBAH AGREEMENT

Evans shared an updated agreement with Hephzibah. She noted a question about custodial costs. This item will return to the Board for action on May 22, 2018.

Board comments included interest in seeing year over year costs of bids moving forward, suggesting that costs might be reduced if the district signs contracts for more than one year at a time.

APPROVAL OF OAK PARK 97 PARTNER LANGUAGE

Evans expressed the need for language defining partnerships within the community. She expressed the need for more formal language to explain the request with the partnerships. She recommended that a committee be established to work through language, followed by the policy committee creating a policy that points to this language. Evans reported that the building usage fees for next year will not change for current users, however; new renters will be charged the new rates. members Spatz and Breymaier offered to participate on the committee.

LEVELED LITERACY INTERVENTION

Carrie Kamm came to the table. She explained that the district is trying to round out the resources that are needed for our multi-tiered learners. She noted that Special Education also uses resources and some older kits need to be updated. She noted that Leveled Literacy materials should last five to 10 years and compliments the Read 180 program. Kamm noted that this purchase is an effort to level the supports at all the schools.

APPOINTMENT OF DUPAGE/WEST COOK HIGH INCIDENT GOVERNING BOARD LIAISON

Eboney Lofton came to the table. She explained that this request is a formality. She is asking for the Board to approve the Dupage/West Cook High Incident liaison and alternate for the year. This item will return to the Board for action on May 22, 2018.

BOARD ASSIGNMENTS

BOARD ASSIGNMENTS

TRANSPARENCY POLICY UPDATE

Member Spatz will send notes from this discussion to the Board members for review. He reported that the Transparency Policy should be ready for approval in June. He met with Kitty Conklin and Member Breymaier to review the draft policy, and some changes were made. Board members were asked to review the draft and send comments or questions of member Spatz. This item will return to the Board for action on June 12, 2018.

EQUITY

It was reported that the Committee for Community Engagement (CCE) held a productive meeting last night. Their discussion focused on how to assist the Board in their communications regarding the equity policy. The committee talked about holding one more larger event on equity. It was noted that the last event was a listening session, but the Board members hosting the event could have used more definition and direction.

Member Datta shared that she has attended several PTO meetings. She shared that the Brooks students got to the heart of the matter quickly. The students expressed interest in MAP, Internet For All, and fees for lost parts of their Chromebooks. She noted that a few emails have also been received.

EQUITY (Continued)

Member Datta noted that when the Board amended the Vision statement something got amended to read "IEP Status", and not "Disability Status", and members of the community were not happy with this resolution. Dr. Kelley suggested that the community was referring to the draft equity policy, not the Vision statement.

Dr. Kelley suggested that it might be good for the Board to brainstorm and work with CCE to come up with an email, and to use its partners to do a direct campaign. The Board was asked to send their ideas to member Datta.

Board comments included suggesting that something be handed out during the end-of-the-year picnics. It was suggested that the Board needs to supply some contextual dialogue with the community; explaining why the schools need an equity policy, and what kind of framing we can supply to them.

It was agreed that Members Datta and Breymaier will share a draft statement with Dr. Kelley who will modify the statement and send it out to the families.

Member Datta noted that some of the DIVCO people felt that the Board should be using the equity meetings to be more persuasive about the vision and what it should look like. She explained to them that the Board does not want to impose its values and beliefs in creating the policy, but wants to take into consideration the community's opinion.

A discussion took place about the understanding of equity. Dr. Kelley suggested that CROAR training be considered.

It was noted that a Board retreat was scheduled for June 16, 2018, but some Board members are not available on that date.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

CONCLUDING ITEMS

BOARD REMARKS

Dr. Kelley, Felicia Starks Turner and Member Spatz attended a meeting at Erickson Institute on Friday. It was reported that the Institute will be presenting their findings at the annual Collaboration for Early Childhood Board meeting on May 17, 2018. They will also be meeting with the participants from East St. Louis and Kankakee. It was reported that 620 Kindergarten children were surveyed and all were considered valid results. This is the first time that the Institute received 100 percent valid survey results.

Concern was expressed about Board representation on Board committees. It was noted that FAC and FORC run well with the Board members being "hands off". It was noted that the other committees claim they are different. It was suggested that the Board members refrain from involvement on the committees and simply attend as the Board liaison.

Member O'Connor will be sending the Board members an invitation to an Advanced Illinois upcoming event.

The Board was reminded that the Barrie Fest is scheduled the week of Labor Day. The Board Secretary was asked to reserve space at this event.

AGENDA MAINTENANCE

The draft agenda for the May 22, 2018 Board was reviewed and revisions were recommended.

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Spurlock declared the meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary