

**Official Minutes of the  
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,  
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois  
Meeting October 16, 2012**

President Barber called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Present: Barber, Gates, Felton, Sacks, Traczyk (6:31 p.m.), Spatz, and O'Connor  
Absent: None  
Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Al Roberts, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Therese O'Neill, Director of Policy, Planning and Communications Chris Jasculca, Director of Special Education Mike Padavic, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Gates moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 6:02 p.m. Roll call vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ayes: Gates, Sacks, O'Connor, Felton, Barber, and Spatz  
Nays: None  
Absent: Traczyk  
Motion passed.

OPEN SESSION

**OPEN SESSION**

Gates moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education move into open session at 6:57 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:03 p.m. with all Board members in attendance.

**SPECIAL REPORTS**

**FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FAC) ANNUAL REPORT**

Dena Bell came to the table. She updated the Board on the makeup of the committee. She explained that FAC reviews some of the district's facility needs prior to the Board, and makes recommendations for the Board's consideration. She reported that the 2011-12 committee accomplishments include ongoing review of the O&M costs, secured entrances at Whittier and Mann, playground projects at Longfellow, Hatch and Beye schools, reviewed warehouse and administration building options, and the 5-10 year Capital Plan review.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Bell explained FAC's role in the playground improvement process, noting that FAC was the group that recommended Altimanu as the firm of choice.

She shared that the committee reviewed several options for the administration building and warehouse. Numerous locations, square footage and parking needs have been considered, and some conceptual reports have been created.

Bell noted that the 5-10 year Capital Plan review is ongoing. Recommendations for long term life-safety and ADA compliance reviews, and ongoing review of site improvements, including classroom furniture recommendations have been made. She reported that the first school was outfitted with new furniture this year.

## FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FAC) ANNUAL REPORT (Continued)

Ongoing efforts include further research on the warehouse and administration building concept development that will include a thorough cost/benefit analysis, determination of space needs, space sharing impacts, energy analysis, and review of parking requirements. The committee will also review the summer 2012 Capital Projects, continue work on the 5-10 year Capital Plan and a complete analysis of the performance contracting Phase I savings. Future initiatives include an energy analysis of school buildings to evaluate options for air conditioning or passive design, provide recommendations for performance contracting Phase II, summer 2013 Capital Projects and other items as directed by the Board.

Bell reported that FAC was able to share some new air conditioning technology that could save the district money and run quietly, with little disturbance to the classroom. She shared that the committee is considering a mini split system which is similar to the units installed in hotel rooms. Cold beam technology was also recommended. O'Neill will have the completed report on this topic on Thursday.

Board questions and concerns included interest in a survey at Beye and how they like their new furniture. It was reported that Hatch, Mann and Lincoln will get new furniture this year. The process has already begun with planning work done by November 9<sup>th</sup>.

Interest was expressed in knowing if the district is satisfied with the way the playgrounds are being received? O'Neill reported that Altmanu will create bid specification for four playgrounds scheduled for the summer of 2012.

## STUDENT PERFORMANCE REPORT (ISAT & AYP)

Felicia Starks Turner and Harla Hutchinson came to the table. President Barber reported that some questions will need to wait for answers until the district has MAP data.

After explaining the AYP requirements, Hutchinson highlighted some of the data. She reported that as a whole, Oak Park Elementary is a very high performing district. She noted that although eight schools made AYP in both subjects, the district did not make AYP for the second consecutive year. This is because two schools did not make AYP in one or both subjects for one or more subgroups. One of the schools did not meet AYP for the second consecutive year, and one school for the third consecutive year.

Starks Turner explained that schools that receive Title I Funds are placed in Federal status, and all schools not meeting the AYP requirements are placed in State status. It was reported that Beye and Brooks did not make AYP. Other requirements will be placed on them in the coming year. Brooks did not make AYP for the second year, placing them in academic early warning year 2. Holmes and Julian made AYP this year but remain in the same status until they meet AYP again.

It was reported that Black students did not make AYP in math, but they were very close, needing only 7 more students to meet the requirements. In reading, the Black students again did not meet AYP, needing 44 additional students to meet the requirements in this category. In regards to students with disabilities and disadvantaged, the district did not make sufficient progress in three categories.

The Board was reminded that AYP is not a good way to look at the success of the district. The district's focus is on student growth. A report on student growth and performance that includes ISAT, MAP and Diebels was recommended. Hutchinson noted that the data coaches are highly successful and supportive and an extensive report will be shared in the future.

## STUDENT PERFORMANCE REPORT (ISAT & AYP) (Continued)

Starks Turner reported that school improvement planning is currently taking place at all ten schools using the new Rising Star tool. It was noted that the Rising Star school improvement plan has not been identified as the plan of the future, but has a lot of promise. Additionally, the school improvement teams are made up of staff and parents. West 40 is engaged in this planning as consultants to support the process.

She explained that Rising Star is a program that requires continual monitoring, student outcomes and effective practices, and combines several initiatives in one comprehensive plan. The district has chosen to focus on all schools; not just Title I schools.

With the Rising Star improvement planning, the administrators are required to watch a webinar prior to October 4. Completion of this task will allow them to gain access to the Rising Star System. The initial overview with the West 40 consultant took place on October 4. Each school is assembling a team of 6-8 members, creating a calendar, and gathering data. Starks Turner noted that the Smart Start and Smart Data indicators must be recorded by November 1, and the Smart Plan indicators are required by December 14. She also noted that West 40 will supply support throughout the school improvement the planning process.

Starks Turner noted that the goal is to have all online plans completed (SIP, Title I and Technology) by working together to improve student achievement by using best practices.

Hutchinson reported that the growth report, which will be provided to the Board in the near future, will include more MAP and ISAT statistics and plans on how to analyze them.

It was noted that sub groups that do not have enough students to qualify for AYP were not included in this report. However, the Board was assured that the data is available and the principals do review the data for every child.

It was noted that reserved Title I funds can be reallocated into the general use funds after a specific date if they are not needed as allocated.

Board questions and concerns included interest in hearing more about students moving from the meets to exceeds status. The administration was encouraged to focus on MAP when creating the growth report and ignore ISAT. It was noted that the Explore/Plan data is key. Consulting support was recommended for MAP analysis.

Concern was expressed that twice as many children did not make AYP in reading as in math, and that this appears to be a trend. Information was requested on how District 97 compares to other similar districts in this area. Interest in seeing District 200 and Wisconsin school districts in the comparison was expressed.

Dr. Roberts concluded by reminding the Board that the district must follow the mandate of the state. Although the district is discussing the transition to common core standards, it must continue to spend money to reinforce an archaic assessment system. He explained that as the district moves into the area of teacher and principal evaluations, it will measure what it determines important, not only what is identified by the state's standards.

## IB UPDATE

Lisa Schwartz came to the table. She reported that she and Dr. Roberts attended IB training recently, and that half of the teachers identified as needing training have completed the process. Schwartz reported that teacher feedback on the training is positive, noting that the IB philosophy fits perfectly with the beliefs and values of Oak Park. She reported that the IB goals and core values are in genuine alignment with the aims and desired outcomes of the common core.

**IB UPDATE (Continued)**

She explained that the IB program consists of three fundamental concepts, holistic learning, intercultural awareness and communication, noting that the program does not replace the current curriculum, but enhances it, fostering creativity for both students and teachers.

Schwartz shared the MYP Unit planner that starts with the significant concept, the key concepts, related concepts and concept statement, and shared the model that requires a second language, art and technology. She is networking with other districts and the team will work together to determine how to accomplish this task.

An updated implementation timeline was shared, noting that the application for both schools will be submitted in early 2013. Once it is approved, a consultant will be assigned to assist the district. During the 2014-2015 school year, the district will be in the candidate and verification phases. During the 2015-2016 school year, the district should be authorized as a fully IB status district.

Schwartz reported that the next immediate steps are to complete the application, consider changes for the next school year, ongoing professional development for middle school staff and continue to educate parents and community members about IB.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

**ACTION ITEMS**

ACTION ITEMS

**4.1.2 Approval of Minutes of September 27, 2012**

Traczyk moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the revised minutes from the September 27, 2012 meeting. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Traczyk, Gates, Spatz, Sacks, Felton, O’Connor, and Barber

Nays: None

Motion passed.

**4.2.1 Approval of Consent Agenda**

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

2.3.1 Bill Lists and Related Reports

2.2.1 Personnel Action as revised

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Traczyk, Spatz, Felton, Sacks, Gates, O’Connor, and Barber

Nays: None

Motion passed.

**2.3.2 Approval of FY12 Audit**

Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the Fiscal Year 2012 audit as prepared by its auditing firm, McGladrey, LLC and forward to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). Roll call vote.

Ayes: Traczyk, Sacks, Gates, O’Connor, Felton, Barber, and Spatz

Nays: None

Motion passed.

**2.4.1 Approval of Financial Support for the Collaboration for Early Childhood**

Sacks moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, renew its two-year commitment with the Early Childhood Collaboration to provide \$35,000 per annum for coordination of outreach, recruitment, program development and assessment efforts for all programs offering publicly funded preschool in Oak Park, and \$15,000 in general operating support. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Sacks, Felton, Traczyk, Gates, O'Connor, Barber, and Spatz  
Nays: None  
Motion passed.

**2.4.2 Approval of School Recognition Applications**

Gates moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the School Recognition Applications for all ten District 97 schools. The applications, as completed by District 97 administrators, verify that all District 97 schools are in compliance with the School Code and State Board of Education rules. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Sacks, Traczyk, O'Connor, Spatz, Barber, and Felton  
Nays: None  
Motion passed.

**2.4.3 Approval of Board Goals**

Felton moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the Board goals as outlined in the Board Goals document for the 2012- 2013 school year. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Felton, O'Connor, Sacks, Traczyk, Gates, Barber, and Spatz  
Nays: None  
Motion passed.

**2.4.4 Approval of Superintendent Evaluation Process**

Gates moved, seconded by Traczyk, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the Superintendent's Evaluation Tool as prepared by the Board during prior meetings.

O'Connor explained that the district will try to align the superintendent's evaluation with the principal and teacher evaluation. He recommended that the Board approve everything except the evaluation tools. He will come back with an updated chart for the next meeting. The Board agreed to approve the process at this time and the tools later.

Roll call vote.  
Ayes: Gates, Traczyk, Felton, Sacks, O'Connor, Barber, and Spatz  
Nays: None  
Motion passed.

**2.4.5 Acceptance of Donation - Irving**

This item was tabled at the request of the Irving principal.

**TOPIC REPORTS**

**FIELD TRIP REQUEST**

President Barber shared that information on both trips are in the Board packet for review and will be approved during the next meeting.

#### ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION – WHITTIER

President Barber shared that information about the donation is in the Board packet for review and will be accepted during the next meeting.

#### RESOLUTION APPOINTING LEGAL COUNSEL IN CONNECTION WITH TAX RATE OBJECTIONS

O'Neill came to the table. She explained that approval of this resolution is an annual request. She reported that this resolution is for the 2009-2010 tax years, and will return to the Board for approval during the next Board meeting.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Roberts explained that with the loss of some key personnel, the district is in need of reorganization. He recommended promoting Lisa Schwartz and Felicia Starks Turner in the Teaching and Learning Department, and Julie Mullen and Nick Jefferson in Technology. He noted that Regina MacAskill has also taken on additional responsibilities. He also expressed the need for additional secretarial assistance.

Dr. Roberts expressed a need to coordinate the data analysis team. He will engage in discussion on this topic with Harla Hutchinson, who is being considered for the lead data position for the district.

He noted that the recommendations that he brings forward build the skill sets of the key personnel and is a financially sound recommendation for the district. He noted that his recommendation supports the Board goals, keep costs in line, and rewards excellent performance.

The overall reaction of the Board was supportive, agreeing that the plan was well thought out. The need for two additional secretaries was questioned. Dr. Roberts explained that the Teaching and Learning department originally had four secretaries. Two secretaries retired and were not replaced. The work load in this department dictates that these positions be filled.

Board questions and concerns included interest in using consultants to assist with the data initiative. It was noted that the technical infrastructure needs an overhaul.

The Board was encouraged to send additional questions to Dr. Roberts. Compensation for these positions will be discussed during the next executive session.

Member Traczyk left the meeting at 9:22 pm.

#### JOINT ADMINISTRATION FACILITY

A discussion took place regarding the potential joint administration facility. The following information was shared.

- Dr. Roberts met with the interim Village Manager
- D97 needs office space for 40 employees and the Park need 15
- A new appraisal on the administration building and warehouse would cost about \$2,400
- The book value of the current buildings are \$0 for the administration building and \$42,000 for the warehouse
- A forum may be held on November 12
- FAC is reviewing the number of district employees, offices, meeting room needs, etc.
- O'Neill will encourage Parks to invest in an updated appraisal of their building

## JOINT ADMINISTRATION FACILITY (Continued)

Questions included;

- A better definition of the TIF scenarios and how they might work
- A better sense of the operating costs at our facility and the Park's facility. It was noted that FAC is working on this and the Board should have a report by the first week of November
- The need for a timeline for freeing up the properties in the next 5-10 years was recommended. It was noted that the Village is working on this task
- Can the two entities create a master list of priorities? It was noted that the two entities are working together and sharing information

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT

Dr. Roberts reported that he attended a technology conference that he found to be useful and interesting. He learned about new ways to look at technology, and shared examples with the Board. He shared that learning has been transformed by the internet age, and encouraged the district to help parents and staff understand what technology can do if teachers/parents support the children using it. He noted that it is not about best practice any more, it is about next practice.

Dr. Roberts reported that he is a member of the District 200 Steering Committee. It is important for District 90 and District 97 to identify their technology visions.

He reported that the Explore test is given too late in the school year for the district to use the results in data analysis. The district needs to consider a test that is administered earlier in the school year.

The Accessibility Committee is ready to begin meeting. Member Sacks will sit on that committee.

### **BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

BOARD CONCERNS /  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

It was recommended that the Board discuss the Irving Schoolyard project during a future meeting. It was explained that the project has several different pieces that rely on each other. A contingency plan was recommended should one of the pieces not fall into place as planned. Another discussion about how much financial support the project will see from the district was recommended. It was noted that the timeline of the project may be an issue. The Board agreed to add this item to the next Board agenda. Information will be sent to the Board members prior to the meeting for review.

Dr. Roberts explained that the Board agreed to financially support the Irving schoolyard project with \$500,000, instead of the \$250,000 like the other elementary schools. Removal of the blacktop was also previously determined to be the cost of the district. O'Neill explained the three areas of the playground requiring work and the need to clarify the needs in order to acquire a grant.

Presenters were reminded to get presentations to the board secretary in a timely manner so they can be included in the board packets.

The Special Education Parent Advisory Committee will be hosting a resource fair for agencies that provide services for children with special needs in January, 2013.

It was reported that the next initiative after No Child Left Behind, might be the Illinois Multiple Measures Index. The Board was asked to consider how the schools will be rated. Member O'Connor shared documents on this topic and how to retain high quality teachers.

## **BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS** (Continued)

Member Felton attended the Middle School IB and Common Core Forum. She noted that it was excellent and well attended, but shared that many parents are still unclear with how the clustering process will be implemented.

Congratulations were extended to the organizers of the Middle School Fun Run.

Several Board members and administrators attended a recent ED-RED meeting and a handout of the upcoming ED-RED programs was distributed.

Members Gates and Traczyk attended the October 11 League of Women Voters forum, where speaker Ralph Martire's presented on pension study. He asked the Oak Park River Forest League of Women Voters to consider setting the record straight with the media.

Interest was expressed in seeing the staff development materials for language arts, math, science.

It was reported that the Finance and Oversight Committee (FORC) appointed three new members. Bios were shared on Rowen Bell, Katina Smith and Kathy Chang Hymson. The 18 applicants were thanked for expressing interest in supporting this committee.

Board members were encouraged to attend the Joint School Board Conference scheduled for November 16-18, 2012.

It was noted that a great story was published in the local paper about BRAVO director, Tina Reynolds.

Vice President Spatz requested that Board members review their list of Board goal responsibilities and send him a suggested timeline as to when they should be reported to the Board. He will compile the data for the Board's review. He noted that one of the approved goals is to build an academic comparison list. The growth report should make some comparisons to other district. He recommended that the list should be something the Board will use into the future, and suggested that this will require Board approval and a public comment period.

Vice President Spatz attended the Early Childhood Council Data Research and Evaluation Committee meeting. He noted that they discussed the application for the next phase for the Race To The Top. The committee will be applying for this initiative. Much of the funding will be dedicated to early childhood, data on early childhood, predictability for third grade scores and enhancements to the KIDS initiative.

Vice President Spatz also attended the event at Brooks. He recommended that as the district recruits teachers, it should favor applicants who already have a history with IB. He suggested that the community be made aware that the implementation of the IB program is extensive and the district may run into some difficulties as it moves forward. Interest was expressed in knowing the plan for the Districts 90 and 200 children when the District 97 IB students move to the high school level.

It was noted that inverting the risk around technology can be achieved by a good firewall setup.



**BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**BOARD RESPONSE  
TO PUBLIC  
COMMENT**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, President Barber declared the meeting adjourned at 10:17 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, October 30, 2012 beginning at 7 p.m. at the administration building located at 970 Madison Street.

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Board President

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Board Secretary

Attachments  
FAC Annual Report  
Student Performance  
IB Update