

Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97
260 Madison Street, Oak Park
May 24, 2022 Regular Meeting

This meeting was held in-person and virtually using Livestream during the time of the Coronavirus pandemic. Board members met in person along with Administration.

President Kim called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Kim, Ross Dribin, Hurd Johnson, Moore, Kearney (arrived at 5:50pm), Spurlock

Absent: Kinhal

Also Present: Interim Superintendent Dr. Griff Powell, Senior Director of Technology Michael Arensdorff, and Lonya Boose Board Secretary.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

Ross Dribin moved, seconded by Moore that the Board move into executive session for the purpose of Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees, Collective Negotiating and Litigation 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1)(2)(11) at 5:40 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

OPEN
SESSION

President Kim motioned that the Board move into Open Session at 6:01 p.m. All present members of the Board were in agreement. The Board convened in Open Session at 6:09 p.m.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

PUBLIC
COMMENT

Live Comment:

Paul Rubio former student of District 97 provided live comment around appreciation for his former teachers specifically Ms. Gullo, his Kindergarten Teacher and others for their support throughout his educational journey in District 97. Rubio also notes, that those teacher relationships helped shape who he is today, and is thankful for the impact. He also congratulates to Ms. Valerie Brown former 5th grade Teacher who retires from Julian Middle School at the end of this school year.

4. District 97 Retiree Recognition

The District 97 Board of Education would like to congratulate the 2021-2022 Retirees. The Board of Education recognizes the hard work and dedication each employee has put into supporting our students, families and the community. On Behalf of District 97, Thank You and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Donna Bronner – Julian

Valerie Brown – Julian

Candace Durham – Irving

Mary Herlehy – Whittier

Paul Manus – Beye

John Hodge – Irving

Michael Moore – Brooks

Sharon Pearch – Longfellow

Karen Tokarz - Brooks

5. ACTION ITEMS

5.1 APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Spurlock moved, seconded by Kearney that the Board of Education, of Oak Park Elementary School District 97, approves the consent agenda as presented.

- 5.1.1 Approval of Minutes from May 10, 2022 Board Meeting
- 5.1.2 Approval of Minutes from May 13, 2022 Emergency Board Meeting
- 5.1.3 Bill List
- 5.1.4 Personnel
- 5.1.5 Approval : Oak Park Township – Youth Engagement IGA Agreement (5/10/22)
- 5.1.6 Approval : ISBE Discipline Action Plan (5/10/22)
- 5.1.7 Approval : Student Transportation Change of Ownership (5/10/22)
- 5.1.8 Approval : Consolidated District Plan
- 5.1.9 Approval : Draft SY24 Calendar (5/10/22)

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

Nays: None

Absent: Kinhal

Motion passed.

6. CONCLUDING ITEMS

6.1 Board Remarks

CONCLUDING
ITEMS

Tragedy in Texas

We as a Board would like to extend our heartfelt thoughts and condolences to the Students, Staff, Families and Community of Robb Elementary in Uvalde, Texas. This is an unspeakable tragedy that has been felt by many and we want to take a moment to acknowledge those feelings, our feelings as we process what we are learning about this tragedy.

Thank You & Farewell Dr. Powell and Dr. Wernet

The Board expresses appreciation to Dr. Griff Powell as this concludes his last board meeting with District 97 as Interim Superintendent. Thank you, Griff, for your wealth of knowledge, support and guidance over the past year. Both you and Dr. Wernet with great gravitas, has kept us focused and even keeled as we work to move things forward during the pandemic. Another Board member notes, I am impressed with how much time and work was put into how you supported us here in District 97. I also want to thank both Tim Kilrea and Cathie Pezanoski our Interim Senior Directors of Human Resources. I am appreciative, as this school year could have gone differently without your guidance and leadership. We look forward to celebrating you this evening. Similar in sentiment, Dr. Powell and Dr. Wernet you both have kept us calm, provided solutions ahead of situations and elevated our understanding. You are awesome, thank you for manning the ship! We appreciate you!

Dr. Powell notes, this Board is student centered and would like the community to appreciate the work that each of you do as a school board on behalf of the students of District 97. He also mentions, that over the course of his time in-district, more and more of the community looks to the school board directly to solve problems. He encourages everyone to trust the leadership, Principals and your incoming Superintendent Dr. Ushma Shah. He also encourages the community to have trust in and support leadership in the schools. Dr. Shah will be in-district to transition with both Dr. Wernet and I on May 31. Good Luck next year and with the pandemic. I think you are comfortable in your decisions and will work in a professional and courteous way towards a positive and collaborative pathway forward, I Wish You Well!

10. ADJOURNMENT

All Six Present Members of the Board were in agreement that the meeting be adjourned. There being no further business to conduct, President Kim declared the meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary