

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97
260 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
April 7, 2020 Meeting**

This meeting was held virtually using Zoom during the time of the Coronavirus pandemic. Everyone participated via electronic means.

President Broy called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Broy, Kim, Spurlock, Breymaier, Liebl, Moore, and Kearney

Absent: None

Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Carol Kelley, Director of Communications Amanda Siegfried, Chief Academic and Accountability Officer Eboney Lofton, Senior Director of Buildings and Grounds Jeanne Keane, Senior Director of Equity Carrie Kamm, Senior Director of Technology Michael Arensdorff, Interim CFO Mark Sheahan, Consultant Rob Grossi, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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Kim moved, seconded by Kearney that the Board move into executive session for the purpose of Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees or Legal Counsel for the District 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1), Pending Litigation 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(11) at 6:05 p.m.

Ayes: Kim, Kearney, Breymaier, Moore, Liebl, Spurlock, and Broy

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Breymaier moved, seconded by Kim that the Board move into Open Session at 6:28 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement. The Board reconvened in Open Session at 7:00 p.m.

MAKE OUR D97 BETTER AWARD

Amanda Siegfried, Director of Communications, reported that the Lincoln Technology Club was awarded the Make Our D97 Better Award. She surprised the team on the last day of school before remote learning began. Siegfried shared a video of the team receiving the award, and acknowledged Mr. Childress and Mr. Breit for their leadership.

MAKE OUR D97 BETTER AWARD

Mr. Childress expressed appreciation for the award and shared that the use of technology shows the students that they will use their academics in real life. He thanked administration for trusting them with their vision and noted that the process not only changed the lives of the students, but of the adults as well.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Due to the nature of a virtual Board meeting, the public was asked to email their comment to the Board. All comments that were received prior to 7:00 p.m. were read aloud. The Board made it clear that any comments that were received after this portion of the meeting would be included in the minutes, but not read aloud. All comments were received prior to the start of the meeting and were read aloud.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice President Kim read the following statement from Mr. and Mrs. Brett Wachter.

We would like to know the reason for the recommendation against synchronous learning, as we do not believe that recommendation will support continued learning effectively long term.

Synchronous learning provides opportunity for teachers to provide actual instruction to students so that they can learn new concepts and techniques across their subjects. It is also the only opportunity for teachers to reconvene with students after their learning to help evaluate how they did and confirm they understood the subject matter appropriately.

The last two weeks of schooling has been adequate. However, the students have not learned any new concepts, nor have they had the opportunity to ask questions, discuss results, or be socialized further with their classmates in a controlled educational environment. The last two weeks will not suffice for continued learning.

We recognize there are challenges to advancing students and teachers learning techniques - including privacy concerns, access concerns, and concerns over the disruption of the learning activities by unforeseen activities in the household or by students. However, absent instruction there is no learning, and absent regular interaction before and after teachers introduce concepts and ask students to practice them, there is no instruction.

We cannot as a community simply accept students collectively regressing. We also cannot accept dumbing down the learning opportunities to the lowest common denominator due to concerns noted above, or continuing to approach this time as "non-instructional" days. MORE synchronous learning activity during this time is required to help students continue to grow and progress, not less.

We'd like to offer help and assistance. As an executive with IBM, Brett's work has always needed to be facilitated remotely. This includes asynchronous activities like independent working assignments and synchronous activities like conference calls. However - in addition to that, it includes collaborative activities such as co-working on assignments together, and workshopping activities such as co-creating new solutions to problems our clients have.

We use a number of virtual tools and techniques to facilitate this productive work remotely. Those tools include videoconferencing and posting tools such as Zoom and Canvass. They also include, however, a number of remote facilitation tools and techniques such as Mural for remote collaboration. We have attached a summary of how we do our work remotely that I'd like to share broadly with the OP97 educational community to help them adopt these practices that allow for MORE and greater direct contact when working remotely. Please provide us the opportunity.

In the meantime, we will be holding our children's teachers accountable for increasing the level of instruction they are providing their students. At least in the elementary school (Mann) they have had direct, if sporadic, interaction with students. We have seen/heard of great remote instruction being provided by Mr. Hayward for his 4th grade class. However, only one of my middle-schooler's teachers has had any direct interaction with their students (Team 7.3). All activity has just been posting assignments to Canvas and that is not sufficient instruction, nor interaction, for the students to be engaged and introduced to new concepts. That, as well as the level of interaction in the elementary school, must change quickly to be acceptable.

President Broy asked administration to respond to this communication.

ACTION ITEMS**4.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 17, 2020 BOARD MEETING**

Spurlock moved, seconded by Breymaier, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the March 17, 2020 Board meeting.

Ayes: Spurlock, Breymaier, Kearney, Kim, Liebl, Moore, and Broy

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

4.2 APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

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

4.2.1 Approval of Bill List

4.2.2 Personnel

4.2.3 Revised Draft 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 Calendars

4.2.4 Approval of Engagement Letter for Fiscal Year Audit (2020-2022)

4.2.5 Adoption of Policy

Policy 1:30 (School District Philosophy)

Policy 2:20 (Power and Duties of the Board of Education, Indemnification)

Policy 2:150 (Committees)

Policy 3:10 (Goals and Objectives)

Policy 5:50 (Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace: E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition)

Policy 7:270 (Administering Medicines to Students)

Ayes: Spurlock, Moore, Breymaier, Liebl, Broy, Kearney, and Kim

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

4.3.1 APPROVAL OF NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION FEES

Kearney moved, seconded by Breymaier, That the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97 approve Oak Park District 97's participation as an IL National Board Certification professional development district for school year 2020-2021 for \$33,825.

Ayes: Kearney, Breymaier, Spurlock, Kim, Broy, Moore, and Liebl

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

4.3.2 APPROVAL OF FOOD SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH THE HIGH SCHOOL

Kim moved, seconded by Spurlock, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97 extend the food service intergovernmental agreement with Oak Park River Forest High School for the 2020-2021 school year.

Ayes: Kim, Spurlock, Moore, Broy, Breymaier, Liebl, and Kearney

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

4.3.3 APPROVAL OF SUMMER 2020 ASBESTOS ABATEMENT INTERIM CO-PRINCIPAL AT LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Moore moved, seconded by Kim, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the summer 2020 asbestos abatement work bids that were presented on March 17, 2020.

Ayes: Moore, Kim, Spurlock, Breymaier, Kearney, Broy, and Liebl
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

4.3.4 ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT WITH ICN CONSORTIUM WIDE AREA NETWORK (WAN) & LAST MILE CIRCUIT

This item was tabled until April 21, 2020.

4.3.5 EMERGENCY RESOLUTION TO SUSPEND POLICY DUE TO COVID-19

Spurlock moved, seconded by Breymaier, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the following resolution.

Dr. Kelley explained that the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) is proposing this language to give the school districts flexibility when making decisions quickly while remote learning is taking place. It was noted that since the Board members are always at home during this time, the Board will always have a quorum. It was noted that most of the wording applies to the closing of the schools, which may need to occur again in the future. It was agreed that having something documented that acknowledges these unique situations could be helpful.

Emergency Suspension of Policy Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

WHEREAS, Section 10-16.7 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/10-16.7) requires school boards to direct, through policy, the superintendent in his or her charge of the administration of the school district;

WHEREAS the School Board has adopted Policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, which authorizes the board to adopt, revise, and temporarily suspend board policies;

WHEREAS, the Board has adopted Policy 4:180, *Pandemic Preparedness*, which acknowledges school closure in response to a pandemic and designates the Superintendent to act as a liaison for the School District to ensure the health and safety of students, staff, and the community;

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Illinois Governor Pritzker declared all counties in Illinois as disaster areas pursuant to Section 7 of the Illinois Emergency Management Act (20 ILCS 3305/7) and directed implementation of the State’s Emergency Operations Plan in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19);

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the U.S. President declared a national state of emergency and Governor Pritzker ordered the closure of all public and private K-12 schools in Illinois until March 30, 2020, in an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, Governor Pritzker extended the closure of all public and private K-12 schools in Illinois until April 7, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), which has authority to administer attendance and school calendar requirements, to interpret graduation requirements, and to oversee the allocation of resources for nutrition, transportation, and other crucial aspects of public education is providing written guidance to Illinois school boards and their districts on issues related to COVID-19, including but not limited to student attendance, e-learning, meal distribution, transportation, special education, and other issues;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Oak Park Elementary School District 97, Cook County, Illinois, as follows:

Section 1: The Board suspends subheads and/or other provisions of its board policies and/or whole policies, as identified previously by the Board or if not previously identified by the Board, as identified together by the Board President and Superintendent, if such suspension is necessary to implement Executive Orders of the Governor and/or written guidance from ISBE relating to COVID-19, including any subsequent orders by the Governor to close schools, if any.

Section 2: The Superintendent will consult with the Board President, and as soon as practicable, but in any event prior to the emergency closure and efforts to implement written guidance from local, State, and federal health and government agencies, report to the Board regarding such emergency closure and efforts to implement written guidance.

Section 3: The Superintendent is authorized, after consultation with the Board President and notification to the Board, to close any school building or District facility without further action by the Board. Such closure shall continue during the emergency created by the COVID-19 pandemic until such time as the Superintendent, in consultation with appropriate local, State, and federal health and government authorities, deems it in the best interests of the District and its students to open schools.

Section 4: The Superintendent is authorized after notifying the Board President, based upon the needs of the District and the guidance from local, State, and federal health and government agencies, to direct staff assignments during District closures, including but not limited to essential employees who must physically report to work, and employees whose services are not needed.

Section 5: Access to the District's school grounds and school buildings or facilities may be limited as directed by the Superintendent during District closures relating to COVID-19.

Section 6: In the interest of public health, and in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order 2020-07 and subsequent guidance issued by the Illinois Attorney General, the Board may conduct open public meetings remotely via telephonic or electronic means, providing opportunity for public access and comment in accordance with the COVID-19 guidance of the Attorney General. The Board reserves the right to adjust board meeting dates, times, and locations during the District-wide emergency closure(s) in a manner consistent with the Open Meetings Act and issued COVID-19 guidance from the Illinois Attorney General, and notes that any or all Board members may attend board meetings remotely.

Section 7: Execution of this Resolution is conclusive evidence of the Board's approval of this action and of the authority granted herein. The Board warrants that it has, and at the time of this action had, full power and lawful authority to adopt this instrument. The Board intends that the Board President has the authority to bind the Board and District and will sign this Resolution after the Board adopts it,

but any signature line in this Resolution not signed by the Board President or Board Secretary may be deemed through email communications as an intent to enter into this Resolution with the same force and effect as an original executed signed document pursuant to the Illinois Electronic Commerce Security Act (5 ILCS 175/1).

Ayes: Spurlock, Breymaier, Kearney, Moore, Broy, Liebl, and Kim
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

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SY 21 STAFFING RECOMMENDATION

Gina Herrmann, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources shared the SY21 staffing proposal. She told the Board that the process began in January and she explained how each of the positions align with the equity policy. Herrmann noted reductions of \$1,562,587 due to a significant amount of retirees this year, which after the recommended new positions, will bring the overall savings of \$421,153.

Board comments included interest in understanding why the Irving and Lincoln staffing numbers do not appear to align. Interest was also expressed in knowing if school districts are talking about anticipated positions that may not have existed before. Interest was expressed in knowing how the district will consider students who may not be able to transition back to school with the other students. Dr. Kelley noted that line items will be reviewed during the budget discussions for next year to ensure adequate funding for homebound students.

Rob Grossi shared that he is preparing a white paper on COVID-19 and how it might affect school district. He told the Board that the pandemic could increase the probability of a tax freeze. He explained that the projection models indicate that if the district sees a tax freeze, addresses all of the capital projects, and pays for them with financial reserves, it could have long-term effects on the district. He indicated that there are some options that could be considered in order to not affect the student learning experience.

AGREEMENT WITH HANOVER RESEARCH

Dr. Kelley reminded the Board that they, via the equity policy, expressed interest in a data research person. Administration considered including that person in the staffing recommendations, and also considered contracting a person for those services. Several companies were vetted and Hanover Research was identified as being able to provide that service. Dr. Kelley recommended partnering with Hanover Research for this service at a cost of \$40,000.

Member Kearney, who participated in the interview of Hanover Research, described the firm as a capacity expander for the district, and suggested that they would be helpful in advancing the equity items. He explained that they would help the district identify how frameworks are developed over time. He told the Board that Hanover has a wealth of experience in that area, and can advise the district on additional capacity, and develop a long-term capacity. He explained that Hanover will partner with the district to create data projects that are created by the district. They will complete as many projects in a year that the district wants them to complete, they require that the projects are completed sequentially. He told the Board that Hanover has other levels of agreements that the Board could consider if they feel that more support is needed.

Board comments included noting that Hanover could help to prepare the district for eventually hiring a full-time person in this position. It was noted that during the recent community forum at Lincoln School, a lot of interest was expressed in having someone engage with the community and produce information that they would like to see.

Member Breymaier supported the need to spend more money to be certain that the district can identify what the equity gaps are, and what the drivers are of those gaps. He told the other members that this is the issue that he cares the most about while he is on the Board.

The Board expressed support for this initiative. It was suggested that the Board approve the current agreement and wait until Hanover produces data before considering the need to move forward with a larger data agreement with the firm. This item will return to the Board for action on April 21, 2020.

SY21 TECH PLAN UPDATE

Michael Arensdorff, Senior Director of Technology reminded the Board that it approved the technology plan three years ago. Years one and two of the plan were pretty heavy with student device refresh. This year's focus will be on professional learning, Internet for All, and an Innovation grant. He told the Board that the district has used up all of its hotspots. The technology department will need to analyze the needs of families, suggesting that the district may need to purchase 10 to 15 more hotspots. He noted that this year's technology plan has a budget of \$30,000, which will also include device refresh for the administrative assistants.

Arensdorff will continue to seek other ways to cut down on contract costs. He is working with the Village of Oak Park and the state consortium looking for ongoing savings. He reported that the total ask for the three-year plan only varied by about \$50,000 from the actual expense. This item will return for Board action on April 21, 2020.

HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL

Gina Herrmann, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources reported that the district joined EBC on July 1, 2018. She explained that this membership helps to keep the costs of insurance lower and more stable. The PPO will see a 5.5 percent increase, HMO will see a 4.3 percent increase in premiums. Herrmann reported that the cooperative has secured life insurance rates with Reliance Standard through July 1, 2023. Therefore, there will be no change in the rates the district is paying for the Board provided life insurance for employees. This item will return for Board action on April 21, 2020.

DENTAL & LTD INSURANCE RENEWAL

Herrmann reported that the district has two different dental insurance offerings, self-funded PPO and HMO, both offered by BlueCross BlueShield. Overall, both plans have performed well. The contributions necessary to fund the PPO for the upcoming year are projected to be 0.1 percent greater than the 2019-2020 contribution rates. Additionally, the HMO premium rates do not need to increase. Gallagher Benefits, the District's insurance consultant, has completed an analysis of the performance of both plans and has recommended no change in the HMO rates for the July 1 plan renewal and a 1.2 percent increase in the PPO rates. This item will return for Board action on April 21, 2020.

DONATION – IRVING

Jeanne Keane, Senior Director of Buildings and Grounds shared that the Irving School PTO would like to donate four air conditioners to help with the schools third floor needs and cork strips to hang artwork on the main floor. This item will return for action on April 21.

VOICE OVER IP RENEWAL

Arensdorff reminded the Board that the district switched from an archaic voice system five years ago. He expressed the need to ensure that the systems are running at all time, and recommended that this project would align with the security budget for school bells, etc. This is a five year lease, with a minimal increase of three percent or less. This item will return to the Board for action on April 21, 2020.

PHASE 2 MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMERA REFRESH

Jim Hackett, Security Coordinator reported that the new video management system is up and running. The district replaced 108 (mostly external) cameras. The middle school internal cameras were not upgraded. An RFP has been developed to address future needs. Hackett suggested a three year plan. He reported that six vendors bid on the project. Integra is the lowest bidder and will be recommended for Board approval on April 21, 2020.

SUMMER 2020 RENOVATION BID PACKAGE

Peter Kuhn from Bulley and Andrews reported that the district only received one bid for bid package #1 trades. Roofing, Glazing, and Drywall were rebid due to limited response and only one bidder submitting a proposal for each trade package at the January 30, 2020 bid opening. On February 20, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. sealed bids were publicly opened at the District 97 Administration Building for the District 97 Summer 2020 Renovations, Bid Group 1 Rebid trades. During this second round of public bidding, only a single trade from each trade package submitted a proposal. The recommended award values aligned with the overall project budget for each trade. The Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC) reviewed the bid summaries by email and recommend awarding of bids in accordance with the attached summaries.

Kuhn explained that this work is considered essential, so work will continue. He assured the Board that a COVID-19 action plan has been put in place to ensure the safety of the workers. He assured the Board that the work will be completed on time.

BOARD ASSIGNMENTS

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STANDING BOARD COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORT FOLLOW UP (as needed – FAC, FORC, CCE and CLAIM)

Committee for Community Engagement (CCE)

It was noted that Amanda Siegfried, Director of Communications has expressed the need for a meeting of this group, as they are good thought partners.

Committee for Legislative Action, Intervention, and Monitoring (CLAIM)

The Cook County Assessor attended the last CLAIM committee meeting to support the legislator forum, unfortunately, the forum has been cancelled indefinitely due to the pandemic.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL LIAISON REPORT FOLLOW UP (as needed – IGOV, PTO council, CEC, OPEF, Community Council, Tri-Board on Equity, Policy, and Self-Evaluation)

OAK PARK EDUCATION FOUNDATION (OPEF)

The Oak Park Education Foundation will meet on April 15, 2020. Their leadership is concerned about the possibility of not being able to run summer programs. They had to cancel their biggest fundraiser for the year, and have sent out email requests for donations. The group is hopeful to get some of their programs into the classrooms remotely. Dr. Kelley shared that she met with their leadership recently and OPEF will be starting a poetry slam in the near future.

ED-RED

It was noted that Member Liebl shared her notes from the recent ED-RED meeting.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

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BOARD REMARK

Vice President Kim shared that in regards to synchronous learning, she is happy with the learning that her children are getting. She expressed appreciation to her children's teachers for checking in and contacting parents when the students indicate that they have completed a project, when in fact they have not.

Member Moore expressed understanding regarding the difficulty of working at home and helping your children learn at the same time. She shared that Longfellow has been using Zoom for quite some time. She asked if there are any plans for distributing paper handouts, noting that some families may not have the ability to print documents at home. Dr. Kelley reported that packets were made available at the beginning of the remote learning period. The district moved away from packets for the safety precautions of potentially spreading COVID-19. Additionally, the distribution of packets would require the PrintShop staff to work in the office and someone would need to stuff envelopes. She noted that principals are working with staff members for activities that do not rely on worksheets, etc. Ebony Lofton suggested that if parent need hardcopies they should contact their principals.

AGENDA MAINTENANCE

The draft agenda for April 21, 2020 was reviewed and revision recommendations were suggested.

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Broy declared the meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary