

Official Minutes of the  
Oak Park Board of Education District 97  
260 Madison Street, Oak Park  
December 14, 2021 Regular Meeting

This meeting was held in-person and virtually using Zoom during the time of the Coronavirus pandemic. One or more of the board members met in-person and everyone else were virtual.

President Kim called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Kim, Kearney, Ross Dribin, Hurd Johnson, Kinhal, Spurlock, Moore

Absent: None

Also Present: Interim Superintendent Dr. Patricia Wernet, Associate Superintendent of Education Felicia Starks Turner, Interim Senior Director of Human Resources Cathie Pezanoski, Senior Director of Technology Michael Arensdorff, Senior Director of Communications Amanda Siegfried, Chief Academic and Accountability Officer Ebony Lofton, Senior Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Tawanda Lawrence, Senior Director of Equity Carrie Kamm, Senior Director of Special Education Donna Middleton, Senior Director of Buildings & Grounds Jeanne Keane, Senior Director of Finance Patrick King, Director of MTSS Emilie Creehan, Director of Special Education Tracy Hamm, Security and School Safety Manager Jim Hackett, Middle School Principals Jeremy Christian and April Capuder, Rob Grossi and Lonya Boose Board Secretary.

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Hurd Johnson moved, seconded by Ross Dribin that the Board move into executive session for the purpose of Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees, Collective Negotiating 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1)(2) at 5:34 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

President Kim motioned that the Board move into Open Session at 7:13 p.m. All present members of the Board were in agreement. The Board convened in Open Session at 7:15 p.m.

**3. PUBLIC HEARING: Tax Levy**

PUBLIC  
HEARING

SUBJECT: Public Hearing on 2021 Tax Levy

MOTION: Kearney moved, seconded by Spurlock that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 moves in to Open Session with a Public Hearing on the Districts 2021 Tax Levy.

CLOSING MOTION: Kearney moved, seconded by Ross Dribin that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 moves to close the Public Hearing on the Districts 2021 Tax Levy.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

#### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

(No Public Comment)

#### **5. ACTION ITEMS**

##### **5.1 APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

Kearney moved, seconded by Hurd Johnson 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 November 16, 2021 Board Meeting
- 5.1.2 Approval of Minutes from November 17, 2021 Tri-Board Meeting
- 5.1.3 Approval of Minutes from November 30, 2021 Special Meeting
- 5.1.4 Approval of Minutes from December 6, 2021 Special Meeting
- 5.1.5 Approval of Minutes from December 9, 2021 Special Meeting
- 5.1.6 Bill List
- 5.1.7 Personnel
- 5.1.8 Mann PTO Donation

Ayes: Kim, Kearney, Ross Dribin, Hurd Johnson, Kinhal, Spurlock, Moore  
Nays: None  
Absent: None  
Motion passed.

##### **5.2 DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

###### **5.2.1 Approve or Rescind Student Suspension (10/26/2021)**

Spurlock moved, seconded by Ross Dribin that, based upon and after the Board's consideration of the hearing officer's report and summary of evidence and testimony presented at the suspension review hearing held on October 1, 2021, the Board of Education finds that Student No. 20212610 has committed an act of gross misconduct as charged by the District's Administration in that Student No. 20212610 engaged in violations of Board Policy 7:190 Student Discipline and the behavioral expectations set forth in the District's Effective Student Behavior Handbook.

Based upon such gross misconduct, the student's continuing presence in school posed a threat to school safety and/or disrupted the learning opportunities of others. I move that the Board of Education uphold the suspension of Student No. 20212610 from Oak Park Elementary School District No. 97. The duration of Student No. 20212610's suspension is appropriate based upon the evidence presented at the suspension review hearing.

Ayes: Kim, Kearney, Ross Dribin, Hurd Johnson, Kinhal, Spurlock, Moore  
Nays: None  
Absent: None  
Motion passed.

###### **5.2.2 Amended Draft FY23 School Calendar (11/16/2021)**

(Available Online)

The updated DRAFT FY23 Calendar is included for Board review. This draft has been shared with the OPTA Calendar Committee and is this committee's recommendation. The Interim Senior Directors of Human Resources are asking the Board to Review and Approve this updated Calendar based on your recommendations from the November 16, 2021 Board meeting. This calendar is also aligned with District 200.

We are seeking a motion to approve the draft FY23 calendar as written at the December 14, 2021 Board Meeting.

Kearney moved, seconded by Spurlock that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 moves to approve the amended FY23 draft calendar as presented.

Ayes: Kim, Kearney, Ross Dribin, Hurd Johnson, Kinhal, Spurlock, Moore  
Nays: None  
Absent: None  
Motion passed.

### **5.2.3 Approval of the Tax Levy**

(Available Online)

On December 14, 2021, the Board will be asked to approve the final tax levy for the 2021 levy year. Per the discussion at the November 16, 2021 board meeting and the recommendation of FORC, administration has prepared a tax levy for final consideration by the Board of Education as well as a brief presentation to explain the recommendation. The presentation will be made during the public hearing to be held at the beginning of the board meeting.

The total tax levy for consideration equals \$84,605,000, with the allocation of the levy by fund contained within the presentation and the tax levy certificate. This represents an increase of 1.4% versus the prior years' tax extension, which is the maximum growth allowed under the property tax extension limitation laws (PTELL). This figure does not factor in changes in the District's bond and interest tax levy, which is not part of the levy that will be adopted by the Board in December. That levy will remain flat versus the prior year as noted in the presentation.

The tax levy will be recommended with consideration of maintaining long-term fiscal and academic stability with the ability to address future capital projects within the District's fund balance policy of maintaining 3-6 months' worth of operating expenditure reserves.

Spurlock moved, seconded by Hurd Johnson that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97 approve the attached Certificate of Tax Levy and associated resolutions providing for adoption of the 2021 tax levy.

Ayes: Kim, Kearney, Ross Dribin, Hurd Johnson, Kinhal, Spurlock, Moore  
Nays: None  
Absent: None  
Motion passed.

## **6. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

ADMINISTRATIVE  
ITEMS

### **6.1 Summer School Programs: Update and Recommendations (action 01/11/2022)**

(Available Online)

District 97 provides a variety of summer programming that reflects our district's vision to create a positive learning environment for all students that is equitable, inclusive, and focused on the whole child. Our summer programming also contributes to helping all of our students experience or achieve the following goals:

PART ONE: 2021 Summer Program Summary

The summer programming offered in 2021 included seven programs:

- Summer Launch (1-8)
- EL Summer Boost Program (1-8)
- Middle School Summer Math Enrichment (6-8)
- Summer Music Camp (5-8)
- Extended School Year Program (EC - 7)
- Summer Boost (special education) (EC-7)
- Virtual Step Up Program (1-8)

PART TWO: 2022 Summer Program Recommendations

The information in this section of the report is divided into the following five sections:

- D97 2022 Summer Program Schedule
- Summer Launch 2022 Student Selection Criteria and Recommendations
- 2022 Summer Program Recommendations
- Proposed Timeline
- Proposed Budget

**6.2 Whittier PTO Tree Donation (action 01/11/2022)**

(Available Online)

The Whittier PTO would like to donate the money to purchase and install five Ironwood trees to plant along the edge of the field and blacktop to reduce the heat index and provide much needed shade for Whittier student’s and the community. B&G and the Park District reviewed the placement of the trees as to not interfere with any of the sports activities that utilize the Whittier field. The donation is an estimated value of \$2,400.00.

Administration will be seeking a motion that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97 accepts the donation in the amount not to exceed \$2,400.00 at its January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting.

**6.3 Food Service and Student Registration Fees (action 01/11/2022)**

On an annual basis, the administration reviews and determines whether lunch and/or registration fees should be increased. The fees are based upon many factors including, year of last increase (it has been many years), any District registration expense increase, cost of food, any ISBE mandates regarding food prices, and comparable fees at surrounding school districts.

The 2021-2022 (current) registration fee schedule is as follows:

- Early Childhood Program -The \$29.00 Student Fee for the covers Instructional Materials.
- Grades K-2 - The \$160 Student Fee includes: \$77.00 for Instructional Materials; \$83.00 for Before/After School & Lunch Supervision.
- Grades 3-5 - The \$180 Student Fee includes: \$77.00 for Instructional Materials; \$83.00 for Before/After School & Lunch Supervision; and \$20.00 for Technology.
- Middle School - The \$225 Student Fee includes: \$20.00 Activity Fee; \$78.00 for Instructional Materials; \$107.00 for Before/After School & Lunch Supervision; and \$20.00 for Technology.

**Registration Fee Recommendation**

The recommended 2022-2023 registration fee schedule is as follows:

- Early Childhood Program -The \$29.00 Student Fee for the covers Instructional Materials.
- Grades K-2 - The \$180 Student Fee includes: \$77.00 for Instructional Materials; \$83.00 for Before/After School & Lunch Supervision; and \$20.00 for Technology.
- Grades 3-5 - The \$180 Student Fee includes: \$77.00 for Instructional Materials; \$83.00 for Before/After School & Lunch Supervision; and \$20.00 for Technology.
- Middle School - The \$225 Student Fee includes: \$20.00 Activity Fee; \$78.00 for Instructional Materials;

\$107.00 for Before/After School & Lunch Supervision; and \$20.00 for Technology.

The only recommended change for the 2022-2023 school year noted above is the additional \$20.00 Technology fee for Grades K-2, bringing that total to \$180. K-2 grade levels recently started receiving devices so it is recommended to add the fee to cover District costs and to ensure an equitable fee structure among the grade levels.

District 97 has been providing free meals to all students during 2021-2022 as part of the National School Lunch Program requirements. The historical food service fee schedule has been as follows:

- Elementary - The food program pricing is as follows: Breakfast \$1.75; Lunch \$2.80; and Milk \$.45 per carton. One carton of milk is included with each breakfast and lunch.
- Middle School -The food program pricing is as follows: Breakfast \$1.75; Lunch \$3.00; and Milk \$.45 per carton. One carton of milk is included with each breakfast and lunch.
- Adult- \$3.25

### **Food Service Fee Recommendation**

It is recommended that the 2022-2023 prices for paid and reduced meals remain unchanged, as the District's costs for the meals have remained flat.

### **6.4 Budget Authority (action 01/11/2022)**

The Board of Education designates a person to prepare the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2023. Pursuant to the Illinois School Code, Section 105, ILCS 5/17-1 the Board of Education shall designate some person or persons to prepare a tentative budget. Therefore, the Superintendent of Schools should be authorized to commence the preparation of the tentative budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023; the budget shall be filed with the Secretary of this Board.

### **Budget Planning**

In accordance with Board Policy 4:10 Fiscal and Business Management

Annually, the Board adopts a proposed budget calendar, indicating dates for presentation by the Superintendent of receipts, estimates, preliminary expenditure recommendations by funds, and major Board actions affecting the budget.

The proposed calendar for such preparation, presentation, and adoption will be as follows:

- July 12, 2022: Update Board on preliminary results of prior fiscal year and discuss macro-level issues regarding budget development
- August 9, 2022: present the tentative FY2023 Budget for Board discussion and authorize the tentative budget for public display and the publication of Notice of Public Hearing to be held on September 13, 2022
- August 12, 2022: Tentative budget placed on public display
- September 13, 2022: BOE Meeting to conduct public hearing and adopt the final budget

Based on the information above, it is recommended that the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to commence preparation of the FY2023 annual budget as of the date of this memo.

## **7. SPECIAL REPORTS**

### **7.1 School Update**

SPECIAL REPORT

A total of 2,246 District 97 students received the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at school clinics November 30 – December 3, 2021. Individuals are considered fully vaccinated two weeks (14-days) after receiving the second of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccination series.

**What Changes?**

- Individuals who are fully vaccinated do not have to quarantine if they are close contacts, unless they are symptomatic.
- According to the IDPH, close contacts who are fully vaccinated should get tested 5-7 days after coming into close contact with someone with COVID-19 and wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days or until they test negative. If symptoms develop, they should isolate and get tested immediately.

District 97 nurses are in the process of verifying vaccination cards. All families should submit cards to their school nurse ASAP after the second dose.

**Week of December 6, 2021 Metrics Dashboard**

New Positive Cases: Students - 19 Staff - 2  
Number in Quarantine as of 12/10: Students - 88 Staff – 2

Cumulative COVID-19 Cases since August 23, 2021  
Students - 156 Staff – 19

School Outbreaks:  
Lincoln Elementary

Administration will continue to monitor community transmission along with our internal metrics as we discuss our mitigations wit Dr. Chapple-McGruder early next year.

**Next Steps:**

- Work with nurses to verify proof of vaccination and determine vaccination rates for all District 97 schools.
- Begin to discuss possible changes to mitigations as a result of new vaccinations, such as Lunch and Outdoor masking.

We will keep the community updated as these conversations progress.

**7.2 Board Meetings and Livestreaming Update**

The Senior Director of Technology provides the Board and community with an update on livestreaming future meetings. Michael and team spent time over the past weeks, problem solving layout and room capacity. Equipment has been installed, audio testing complete, and several test meetings have been conducted. Plans to stream the next Board meeting will take place January 11, 2022. At the Middle Schools, livestreaming is currently up and running for both Sports and Musical performances, directly to the districts YouTube channel. As we begin this process, more information will be provided to the community.

**8. BOARD ASSIGNMENTS**

OPEF met on 12/1 and discussed strategic planning. They are also in the process of reviewing their bylaws and hope to be completed by end of January 2022.

Bingo Bash fundraiser will be held at the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Club on April 29, 2022.

Current Executive Director Barber is stepping down, so the Foundation is looking to fill this position and have plans to interview before the end of December 2021.

Poetry Slam is coming December 17, 2021. If you are interested in being on the judging panel, please let Board members Hurd Johnson and Ross Dribin know your availability.

IGOV, 2022 community forum is tentatively set for April, 2022.

FAC/FORC joint review meeting coming soon.

## **9. CONCLUDING ITEMS**

CONCLUDING  
ITEMS

### **9.1 BOARD REMARKS**

Superintendent Search Update; the Board held Special Meetings in closed session on both December 6<sup>th</sup> and December 9<sup>th</sup> 2021. Finalist from those Special Meetings will be asked to participate in second round interviews. Currently the Board and its search firm, HYA is working to iron out details and information on next steps.

Board President Kim, shares her appreciation for all of the hard work everyone in district is doing on behalf of the students. Board member Spurlock mentions the joy her children had once they found out that possible mitigation changes could potentially be coming after winter break. These changes for little people have a huge impact. She also touches on the joy they have looking forward.

Board member Moore asks Administration, can we get information on mental health? I feel we need to get in front of any needs that may present itself.

Vice President Hurd Johnson, ahead of Winter Break, I appreciate everyones hard work. Please take time to enjoy yourselves, and connect with family and friends. On behalf of the Board of Education, we appreciate all of our Staff, Teachers, Building Administrators, and Central Office.

### **AGENDA MAINTENANCE**

The draft agenda for the January 11, 2022 meeting was reviewed.

- Add agenda item for Superintendent Search

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

ADJOURNMENT

Spurlock moved, seconded by Kearney that the meeting be adjourned. There being no further business to conduct, President Kim declared the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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Board President

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Board Secretary