

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
260 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
Meeting August 15, 2017**

President Spurlock called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Spatz, Spurlock, Liebl, and O'Connor
Absent: Breymaier, Broy, Datta
Also Present: Superintendent, Dr. Carol Kelley, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Dr. Alicia Evans, Assistant Superintendent of HR Laurie Campbell, Chief Academic and Accountability Officer Dr. Amy Warke, Senior Director of Special Services Ebonee Lofton, Senior Director of Policy, Procedures and Communication Chris Jasculca, Sr. Director of Administrative Services Dr. Felicia Starks Turner, Senior Director of Equity and Excellence Carrie Kamm, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

Liebl moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education move into Executive Session at 5:30 p.m. to discuss (Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance or Dismissal of Specific Employees or Legal Counsel for the District 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1), Collective Negotiations 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(2).

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

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

O'Connor moved, seconded by Liebl, that the Board of Education move into Open Session at 6:29 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement. The Board took a brief recess in order to celebrate the newly hired staff members. The meeting reconvened at 7:05 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

PUBLIC
COMMENT

Jason Wulcovicz, an Oak Park resident, spoke in support of the Board's decision to modify the Gifted and Talented program (GTD). He suggested that the program, the way it was run in the past, needs to be looked at as one of the contributing factors to the achievement gap, and suggested that the program needs to be equitable. He shared that his daughter, who is black, started attending Oak Park schools in fourth grade, and he was never told about the program. He noted that the community wants to believe in the public schools and do whatever they can to make them better.

Will Sims, an Oak Park resident and Longfellow parent, supported the comments made by Mr. Wulcovicz.

Camile Lindsay Kumi, an Oak Park resident, came to present a prepared statement because she and others believed that there would be a GTD forum this evening. Kumi read the statement that reported that data on the District 97's GTD program notes stark representation of African American students with only 5.16 percent of enrollment in the GTD program; yet comprise 18.5 percent of total D97 student body enrollment according to the most current data on the Illinois Report Card. She noted that last year, Hispanic children comprised just 6.15 percent of the GTD program despite comprising 11.5 percent of the total student body within the district.

Kumi noted that parents understand that the District is reviewing the current practices of the GTD program to "study the program before making wide changes, with input from a variety of voices, including teachers, parents, students, and administrators". She noted that given the racial/ethnic disparities in the GTD program data, the stated vision of the district, and the current GTD review process underway, the undersigned District 97 community members state the following:

1) They applaud the District on its decision to review the GTD program and create a forum for information sharing and community input. They hope that the forthcoming GTD program review process continues to be transparent and provides, with ample notice, multiple avenues for parents, students, and teacher to provide their input and feedback in the GTD program review process.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Continued)

2) They support a GTD program that is:

- a) Informed by best practice in education policy focusing on how race/ethnicity and income shapes educational opportunity
- b) Inclusive and equitable throughout its implementation premised on the belief that every student must be nurtured, empowered, and academically challenged, while accessing learning at their individual levels of readiness
- c) Held publicly accountable
- d) Evaluate using an inclusiveness and equity lens framework
- e) Led by teachers who are provided the time, support, training, and resources needed for successful implementation
- f) Administered and overseen by staff who have participated in the value equity-based bias reduction training and have shown proficiency reflective of cultural competency

Kumi concluded by noting that 579 community members signed the petition in support of these changes.

Candice Lee, an Oak Park resident, told a story about her son's experience on the first day of school last year. She explained that her son was taken out of the classroom and sent to the principal's office because she had difficulty proving residency after visiting the district office several times. She noted that her son is African American and there were other African American children in the principal's office for the same reason. She shared that her son has been a victim of bullying from the beginning. Lee asked the Board to consider the first day of school protocol regarding students who do not have proof of residency, as it is demeaning to the children.

SPECIAL REPORTS

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UPDATE ON GTD PREPARATION

Amy Warke came to the table along with Carrie Kamm and Helen Wei. They noted that this presentation was a follow up to an Informational Report shared with the Board on July 18, 2017.

They reported that administration met with the GTD teachers in May and informed the community that they were working on enrichment units in Math instruction. At that time, it was determined that an Ad Hoc committee would be formed in the fall. Additionally, all eight elementary principals reviewed the current program and tried to identify what the service is saying, what it looks like to the students, and consider if the services from school to school are consistent. They reported that the students do not all experience school in the same way.

Kamm reported that during the summer, sessions were conducted on differentiation and enriching the math units, and that direct support will continue with the third grade teachers, GTD teachers and instructional coaches. Additionally, Dr. Yvette Jackson will be the keynote speaker during the August 21, 2017 Institute Day. She will return in September and October for two full-day sessions.

Wei shared a flowchart that teachers will refer to for instruction in the classroom. She reported that the teachers will constantly be taking a check on where students are. She explained that for each lesson, teachers will begin with a hook (group task). If a student shows mastery of the topic, they will move on to enrichment. This process repeats and adjusting instruction occurs to meet each child's needs. Lisa Wessman will be brought in to train the teachers on how to successfully teach using this process. Student growth will be assessed during the regularly scheduled data dive. It was explained that this process will be currently limited to the third grade as more time is needed before it can be implemented for the fourth and fifth graders.

Board comments included a suggestion to compare the prior year data. Interest was expressed in seeing data on the children who are in the gifted range previously, and the students who just missed the cutoff.

It was noted that the announcement for the Ad Hoc committee will be released on August 23, 2017. Applicants will have until September 8, 2017 to express interest. It was noted that Members Datta and Breymaier will sit on the committee along with eight parents, community members and students. The committee will meet eight times and report to the Board during the second meeting in January.

It was reported that the administration will be working with the staff on cultural competency training this year. It was noted that the conversations are multifaceted and evolve around some deep issues. Dr. Jackson approaches

UPDATE ON GTD PREPARATION (Continued)

this work with an equity lens. It was noted that the district is not removing GTD services, just looking at the systems that are in place and determining if they are aligned with what the district says it values. Teachers will be teaching to the strengths of the students and meeting their needs. Because of this, there will be some students in the classroom who need extra assistance, some will have additional support (GTD) and some will not receive extra services.

DEMOGRAPHICS STUDY REPORT

Dr. John Kasarda joined the meeting via phone. He updated the Board regarding the demographics study, noting that the 2015 study indicated a housing turnover by those 65 years and older, and noted that housing has again begun to increase in the area.

Kasarda predicts that within the next 10 years, the district will see an increase of about 200 students. He noted that Beye, Whittier and Mann will be stable, and Irving, Lincoln and Longfellow will increase a little. He predicted that Brook Middle School will see about 90 more children, but Julian Middle School will remain stable or see a slight decline in enrollment. It was noted that this information will be used in the five-year forecast and to determine expansion needs.

BOARD SELF EVALUATION AND REVIEW OF REVISED MEETING FORMAT

The Board norms were reviewed and considered. President Spurlock explained the difference between a working session and a business meeting. The Board reviewed the draft Agenda Schedule spreadsheet and revisions were recommended. It was decided that each Board member will facilitate one working session.

It was noted that the topics identified for the working sessions were determined by the Board's responses to the recent survey.

ACTION ITEMS

5.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 18, 2017 BOARD MEETING

ACTION ITEMS

Spatz moved, seconded by Liebl, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the July 18, 2017 Board meeting.

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

5.2 APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 5.2.1 Approval of Bill List
- 5.2.2 Approval of Personnel (Revised)
- 5.2.3 Approval of Donations
- 5.2.4 Change / Addition to Board meeting Calendar
- 5.2.5 Approval of the Hephzibah Contract

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

5.3.1 ADOPTION OF THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Spatz moved, seconded by Liebl, that the Board of Education, District 97, adopt its Tentative 2017-2018 budget in the total amount of \$102,342,270 (inclusive of \$84,314,475 of operating fund expenditures and \$18,027,795 of non-operating expenditures), thus placing such tentative budget on display for a minimum of 30 days and calling for a public hearing of said budget on September 26, 2017.

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

5.3.2 APPROVAL OF THE GARFIELD PTAB

Spatz moved, seconded by Liebl, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the Garfield Condo PTAB settlement in the amount of \$3,845.

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

5.3.3 ADOPTION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE VILLAGE OF OAK PARK REGARDING THE HOLMES SCHOOL EASEMENT

Liebl moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the memorandum of understanding with the Village of Oak Park for the purpose of the expansion of Holmes School.

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

The following items were delayed until after a second closed session could take place later in the meeting.

- 5.4.1 Appointment of Interim Assistant Principal for Brooks Middle School
- 5.4.2 Appointment of Co-Interim Whittier Principals
- 5.4.4. Approval of Notice of Remedial Warning for Student Support Specialist
- 5.4.5 Approval of Notice of Remedial Warning for Nurse

5.4.3 APPROVAL OF THE 2017-2022 SUPERINTENDENT'S EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT

Liebl moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the 2017-2022 Superintendent's employment contract with Carol Kelley.

Messages were read from members Broy, Data and Breymaier expressing their support of this item.

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

BOARD ASSIGNMENTS

**STANDING BOARD COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORT FOLLOW UP
FINANCE AND OVERSIGHT REVIEW COMMITTEE (FORC)**

The next meeting of the FORC committee is scheduled for August 29, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (CCE)

It was reported that the committee has received approximately 450 responses to the survey, and more are expected. They are considering ways to engage people before meetings instead of reacting after meetings. Interest was expressed in knowing how many families are new to the district, and if the district could create an event for them to help them transition and feel welcome.

The committee asked the Board to send future topic ideas to the committee for consideration.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND LIAISON REPORT FOLLOW UP
IGOV**

It was reported that IGOV will be meeting next Saturday, where they will be planning a forum on demographics and capacity.

TRI-BOARD MEETING – COLLABORATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD IGA

It was reported that the IGA Governing Board will be meeting on September 27, 2017, and the agenda will be sent out a month in advance in accordance to the intergovernmental agreement. Members Spatz and Broy will be the representatives for this group.

TRI-BOARD MEETING – COLLABORATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD IGA (Continued)

It was noted that the Board, during the Consent agenda approval, took action to move their November 28, 2017 meeting to November 27, 2017 in order to accommodate the needs of the Tri-Board which will be meeting on that date.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

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ITEMS

CULTURAL PROFICIENCY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – NATIONAL EQUITY PROJECT

Carrie Kamm came to the table and shared a proposal for continued work that was started last year with the National Equity Project (NEP). She noted the importance of making sure that it is inclusive for all our staff, and expressed excitement in starting the process. She reported that she is looking at implicit bias training and how it connects to self. This item will return to the Board on September 12, 2017 for action.

Board comments included suggesting that the district invite all the Village boards to participate in the competency training at the same time, and the Board members expressed interest in participating. Member Liebl will share this information with the Tri-board on Equity.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

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BOARD REMARKS

Vice President O'Connor noted that he will be out of the country for a week sometime between now and the September 12, 2017 Board meeting.

It was noted that the Senate overrode the Senate Bill 1 (SB1) veto; and tomorrow will vote on a mandatory veto. The Senate may possibly vote on revised language for SB1. It was noted that the Bill would not cause the district to lose funding, but would not increase it by much at all (perhaps one or two million dollars).

It was reported that Dr. Kelley and member Spatz attended the McCormick Foundations Executive Fellows program where they heard a presentation from experts in the field regarding early childhood education and how it is a good investment. It was noted that the more risk factors a child has, the more important strong relationships are. The group is comprised of three State Senators, four superintendents, a few judges, and other professionals in the field. It was noted that the keynote speaker from that evening has been invited to speak during a future CLAIM event. There were four superintendents in attendance and all four are working on the early childhood instrument that should supply the district with data on which geographic areas are supporting those young learners. Additionally, the group discussed toxic stress and how it affects children.

It was noted that the Board should be receiving updates related to the PE Waiver during future discussions like the Master Schedule and Capital Projects Reports and OPTA Negotiations.

The Policy team is considering a policy regarding Charter School Applications. The committee reached out to IASB (Illinois Association of School Boards) PRESS on this topic and will be meeting next Wednesday.

BOARD MEETING AGENDA FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The draft agenda for the September 12, 2017 Board meeting was reviewed and modifications were recommended.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Spatz moved, seconded by Liebl, that the Board of Education move into Executive Session at 9:02 p.m. to discuss (Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance or Dismissal of Specific Employees or Legal Counsel for the District 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1)).

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Spatz moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education move into Open Session at 10:05 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement. The Board took a brief recess in order to celebrate the newly hired staff members.

5.4.1

APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL FOR BROOKS MIDDLE SCHOOLS

ACTION ITEMS

Liebl moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education, District 97, appoint Angelica Kamysz as the Interim Assistant Principal at Brooks Middle School for the 2017-2018 school year at an annual salary of \$78,923.

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

Nays: None
Absent: Datta, Breymaier, and Broy
Motion passed.

5.4.2 APPOINTMENT OF CO-INTERIM WHITTIER PRINCIPALS

Spatz moved, seconded by Liebl, that the Board of Education, District 97, appoint Jim Doyle and Scott Kasik as the Interim Co-Principals at John Greenleaf Whittier Elementary School at a rate of \$500 a day. Mr. Doyle and Mr. Kasik will each be limited to 100 work days for the 2017-2018 school year.

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

5.4.4 APPROVAL OF NOTICE OF REMEDIAL WARNING FOR STUDENT SUPPORT SPECIALIST

Spatz moved, seconded by Liebl, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve issuance of Notice of Remedial Warning for Student Support Specialist John McCauley.

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

5.4.5 APPROVAL OF NOTICE OF REMEDIAL WARNING AND SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY FOR A NURSE

Spatz moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve issuance of Notice of Remedial Warning and Suspension without pay for Nurse Diane Ciancanelli.

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

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Spurlock declared the meeting adjourned at 10:09 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary