

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
Meeting April 29, 2014**

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

Present: Spatz, Gates, Sacks, Felton, O'Connor (6:23 pm), Brisben and Traczyk
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, Director of HR Steve Cummins and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Sacks moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 6:03 p.m. to discuss (Student Discipline, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9)). Roll call vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

OPEN SESSION

Gates moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education move into open session at 7:21 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

OPEN SESSION

The meeting was reconvened at 7:26 p.m.

SPECIAL REPORTS

RESEARCH FOR BETTER TEACHING

Felicia Starks Turner came to the table with Principals Suzie Hackmiller, and Angela Dolezal, teachers, Lynn Beauprez, Karen Foleno, Frances Kraft, Jennifer Las and Melissa Woods, and RBT instructor Renee DeWald.

SPECIAL REPORTS

The team explained the history of the RBT program, noting that it was founded in 1979 by Dr. Jon Saphier, as a school improvement organization with extensive experience in teaching and leadership, working in-depth with over 100 school districts across the United States each year. The mission of the RBT program is to build individual and institutional capacity to sustain increased student achievement. They noted that RBT offers programs for teachers to support their professional growth, strengthen collegiality, and encourage experimentation through direct study of the knowledge base on teaching. DeWald noted that RBT looks at the knowledge base of teaching, with standards of established levels of proficiency (quantity and quality of work, work habits, procedures, general routines, and interpersonal behavior), including the expectation that students have the capacity to achieve the standards.

The team explained the components of high expectation teaching (teachers choice of language, regular classroom mechanisms, daily instructional strategies, and explicitly teaching students what effective effort is), and shared examples of how these strategies are working in their classrooms. They noted the importance of planning conferences to thoughtfully consider the nuances of the content in an effort to improve lesson effectiveness, to identify what might be difficult for students to learn, what information is important for the students to learn, and results
RESEARCH FOR BETTER TEACHING (Continued)

in a better sequencing of activities. Additionally, the team explained how RTI ties into the Danielson model.

Dr. Roberts explained that the principals and two teachers from each school are involved in the program this year. They will begin another cohort next year and continue learning and supporting the process. He explained that the original team consisted of several non-district participants, and noted that the original team continues to meeting on a regular basis.

Next steps were identified as; principal led professional development, building staff meetings, on-going professional development at the schools during the 2014-15 school year to support systematic implementation, and continued training and support for this year's cohort during the 2014-15 school year.

Board comments included a recommendation that the team read "Quite" by Susan Cain, and "Teach Like a Champion" by Doug Lemov. Interest in the communication to staff and parents was expressed.

The Board expressed excitement about the effort based learning piece, the essential concepts as it ties into common core, and the suggestion of high expectation classes for parents. Interest was expressed in knowing what the Board can do to help increase community awareness. It was suggested to add the phrase, "and there is no giving up on yourself in this classroom", to the statements, "This is important, you can do it; and I am not going to give up on you." Interest was expressed in stressing student motivation, and teaching students how to work harder and more effectively. Additionally, interest was expressed in knowing that the middle school principals are also engaged in this process.

INTERNATIONAL BACALORIETTE (IB) IMPLEMENTATION

Lisa Schwartz came to the table with Patty Feierberg and Jen Robertson. Schwartz reported that IB was adopted for several reasons, noting that it is a goal standard for organizing schools across the nation. It is a way to organize the middle schools; to bring more rigor to the curriculum and more authentic learning experiences. Additionally, it is a way to get the children to learn the tools they will need as adults. She noted that a good IB framework will also meet the requirements of the common core.

Schwartz reported that the district is currently considered to be in IB candidate status and will remain there for one more year. If the district moves forward according to the timeline, the district should be an authorized IB program during the 2015-16 school year. Schwartz noted that IB is the framework that we operate under with everything evolving around the students. She identified the eight subject areas as; Arts, Design, Humanities, Language A, Language B, Math, PE/Health and Science, and noted that the IB program considers all of these classes as core curriculum.

Schwartz reported that eighth graders will be required to take all eight of the subject groups, and participate in community projects and design/integrated studies. Schwartz noted that the Middle School IB program was originally designed as a five year program; in order to meet the requirements in three years, a special project will be required in eighth grade.

Other changes made to meet the IB requirements were identified. Schwartz noted that some classes currently offered at the middle schools, such as guitar, piano and family and consumer sciences will not be offered in the future.

The teachers shared that there are ten IB Learner Profile Attributes that remain in focus during the teaching of all instruction. They are; Inquirers, caring, knowledgeable, thinkers communicators, INTERNATIONAL BACALORIETTE (IB) IMPLEMENTATION (Continued)

principled, balanced, open-minded, risk-takers and reflective. Currently, all three grades are placing emphasis on the learner profile traits connected through advisory and unit planning, interdisciplinary units, service-learning projects and reflection. They shared examples of service learning projects, authentic interdisciplinary projects, and an art project that will use plastic bottle tops was introduced. Handouts were shared and discussed.

The team reported on the steps taken to share the IB initiative with the staff and community, and the staff professional development efforts were identified. It was reported that 65 staff members attended the rigorous IB professional development this year, with 11 of them attending more than one session. It was noted that every content area has been represented in the training, and it was suggested that a Board member may be interested in attending a workshop in the future.

Next Steps for authorization were identified as;

- Brooks – Julian collaboration
 - Unit planning
- Continue workshops and Professional Development
 - Staff, department time and IB training
- Philosophy work continued
 - Four philosophies need to be written
 - Share with staff and the community
- IB Leadership Team
 - Monthly IB focus for IB/Team Leader
- School Décor
 - Continue to make our schools look “IB” (In the classrooms, hallways, media center, etc.)
- Community Projects

Board comments included the desire to market this program more vigorously. A blog or video for this purpose were recommended. Interest was expressed in solutions for planning time needs.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PUBLIC
COMMENT

ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEMS

2.4.2 Approval of Minutes from the April 8, 2014 meeting

Sacks, moved, seconded by Traczyk, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the revised minutes from the April 8, 2014 Board meeting.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed

2.2 Approval of Consent Agenda

Traczyk moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the consent agenda as presented to the Board.

2.2.1 Minutes from the April 7, 2014 special meeting

2.2.2 Minutes from the April 21, 2014 special meeting

2.2.3 Bill List

2.2.4 Personnel Action

2.2.5 Acceptance of Donation to Beye School

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

Nays: None
Motion passed.

2.3.1 Resolution For Honorable Dismissal Of Educational Support Personnel

Gates moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve and adopt resolution “A” authorizing notice of termination of employment at the end of the school year and non-renewal of employment in the 2014-15 school year to the educational support employee listed on the following page.

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

2.4.1 Approval of Installation of Unit Vents

Felton, moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, award a contract to Henry Brothers, Co., in the total amount of \$1,308,663, for the installation work associated with the temperature control pilot project, and as described in the memorandum to the superintendent dated April 8, 2014.

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

2.4.2 Approval of Accessibility and Other Summer Capital Improvements

Sacks, moved, seconded by O’Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, award a contract to CMM Group, Inc., in the total amount of \$1,508,630, for the accessibility/ADA renovation work at Whittier, Beye, Irving and Mann Schools, and as described in the memorandum to the superintendent dated April 8, 2014.

The volunteers on the Accessibility Committee were acknowledged.

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

2.4.3 Reorganization of the Board

Gates, moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, nominated Sheryl Marinier as Secretary from April 29, 2014 until April 28, 2015.

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

Sacks, moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, nominated Jim Gates as Vice President from April 29, 2014 until April 28, 2015.

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

Traczyk, moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, nominated Bob Spatz as President from April 29, 2014 until April 28, 2015.

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

2.4.4 Action on Student Discipline

Traczyk, moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the following resolution regarding student 20142904.

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Oak Park School District 97, Cook County, Illinois, did through the Board on April 29, 2014, hold a hearing concerning possible expulsion of Student No. 20142904, and,

WHEREAS, the evidence taken at said hearing shows that Student No. 20142904 has been found guilty of a violation of the rules and regulations of this School District, the Illinois School Code, and the Statutes of the State of Illinois;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved that Student No. 20142904 is:

Expelled from attendance at Oak Park School District 97 effective May 2, 2014 and through June 6, 2014. The student will not be allowed to attend or participate in any District 97 activities, including athletic events, social events, and those events related to end of year activities, and is prohibited from being present on school grounds during this same time period.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby further resolved that the Superintendent is to issue a written notice of the Board's decision to the guardian of Student No. 20142904.

Roll call vote.

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

COMMITTEE / WORK GROUP REPORTS

POLICY REVIEW UPDATE

None

FACILITIES UPDATE (FAC)

The Facilities Advisory Committee was acknowledged for their efforts throughout the year.

O'Neill reported that the custodial supply bid, asbestos work and the purchase of a box truck will be needed during the summer months. She noted that the truck will be expensed as part of the 2014-15 budget.

Dr. Roberts share the Temperature Control Contingency Plan for the summer of 2014. He reported that the temperature will be monitored inside and outside. The district will use a child care weather watch chart to guide the decision to initiate the extreme hot weather protocol.

He reported that preventative actions will include monitoring the temperature control data at the district and building levels to trigger preemptive measure, inspect all available cooling stations to ensure efficiency and effective operations of cooling units, establish procedures that prevent the buildings from heating up overnight, use portable units and fans at hot spots, window ventilation, and other recommendations.

FACILITIES UPDATE (FAC) (Continued)

COMMITTEE /
WORK GROUP
REPORTS

Once it has been determined that the protocols are to be initiated, the principals will monitor the classroom temperatures and humidity throughout the day, use cooling stations to provide relief in an even more uniform and standardized manner, determine if outside recess should be shortened or canceled for the day, request portable units or fans for the hottest spaces as needed, ensure that doors are closed in all air conditioned rooms, etc.

The district will monitor conditions frequently, deploy resources (additional fans, portable units, cooled bottled water, popsicles, etc.) Additionally, the district office will serve as a communication command center, and help to keep staff and parents informed. Dr. Roberts noted that under the most severe conditions, he will determine if the school day should be cut short.

Board comments included a request to post the weather chart on the Web site, communicate to the stakeholders that it exists, and direct them to its location. Interest was expressed in software that could send alerts when areas of the buildings reach critical temperatures. Interest was also expressed in the individual school's cooling rotation plan.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE (C.L.A.I.M.)

It was reported that the CLAIM Committee met in April and agreed to meet seven times during the school year. It was noted that one new member has joined the committee.

It was reported that the committee is contemplating another community forum and has recently been discussing the school funding reform act. It was noted that the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is collecting data by district. It was suggested that if the Board is interested in CLAIM researching the act in more detail, direction would need to be given.

It was reported that Districts 200 and 90 have signed the letter for Senator Harman and Lightford. There was interest in the Board submitting the proposal to the IASB Resolution Committee; the CLAIM Committee would also need to submit the document to the Board for formal approval.

An update on the Senate data sharing bill was given. It was explained that the bill aims to protect data privacy; however, it makes it more difficult for the State Board of Education to connect data files, and it increases the liabilities for universities that want to do research with student data. It solves a problem that does not exist, and makes data sharing more difficult.

FINANCIAL UPDATE (FORC)

It was reported that the FORC Committee is scheduled to meet next Monday. The application process for new members was discussed.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PLAN UPDATE

O'Neill shared a spreadsheet of the upcoming instructional/capital projects. The recommended projects include HR/Financial Software, on-line student registration, evaluation software, iLearn initiative, projector initiatives, K-5 Math materials/textbook adoption and sixth grade social studies textbook adoption. It was noted that the Cap-Ex spreadsheet is designed to review the suggested purchases and determine their importance.

SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION UPDATE

The timing of the superintendent's evaluation was discussed. It was determined that Dr. Roberts will share his input with the Board by May 27, 2014 and the evaluation software will be available to the Board for input from June 2, 2014 – June 4, 2014.

MADISON STREET PROPERTIES UPDATE

None

AD HOC DASHBOARD/BENCHMARK COMMITTEE UPDATE

It was reported that STRIVE met recently. Documents were shared that identified their goals and dashboard. It was reported that the Ad Hoc Dashboard/Benchmark Committee is using the data from STRIVE to move forward with the creation of their dashboard.

BENEFITS COMMITTEE

Cummins came to the table. He shared an updated benefits document. He noted a Board increase of 6.9 percent, which provides the district with the means to rebuild its reserves during the next two years. It was noted that the committee initially factored in a 10 percent increase, and is coming in well below that amount. It was explained that this document moves the district from a three tier program to a four tier program. This item will return to the Board for action on May 13, 2014.

BOARD SELF-EVALUATION UPDATE / GOALS TIMELINE

The agenda for the May 31, 2014 Board retreat was discussed. It was agreed that homework will be sent to each Board member to further inform the agenda.

It was reported that Illinois's waiver was approved a week ago, which means the district has another year of AYP. A document was shared and discussed. A discussion on this topic during the open session of the retreat was requested, as well as interest in being armed with this data before the retreat to help make decisions at that time. It was agreed that administration will review this request, and report back to the Board on the feasibility of fulfilling this request.

CALENDAR COMMITTEE

The Board reviewed the Calendar Committees recommendation to extend the school year until June 10, 2014 in order to make up for the lost days due to severe weather. It was recommended that the motion identify the days as emergency days and not snow days.

BOARD MEETING CALENDAR FOR THE 2014-15 SCHOOL YEAR

The proposed Board meeting dates for the 2014-15 school year were shared with the Board. This item will return for action on May 13, 2014.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

CONCLUDING
ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Roberts recommended that the Board support the Mann School Odyssey of the Mind team with a \$500 donation as they have done for similar competitions in the past.

He shared that he attended the Extreme Reading Olympics held at the Library this morning. He reported that Whittier took second place, and Hatch, Mann, Irving and Holmes tied for third place.

BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

It was reported that the Stazyak dinner was the most successful in their history. Appreciation was extended to all who participated.

Appreciation was expressed for devoting so much of this evenings meeting on teaching and learning.

Dr. Roberts was acknowledged for sharing a wonderful presentation to Research for Better Teaching with the PTO Council.

It was reported that the Collaboration for Early Childhood will be hosting a dance party fundraiser on May 10, 2014 for children.

BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS (Continued)

It was shared that the Council of Governments (COG) will be meeting next Wednesday.

It was noted that IGOV is in the process of drafting an informational meeting on taxing, spending, budgeting, etc.

BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PREVIEW DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE MAY 13, 2014 BOARD MEETING

The draft agenda was reviewed.

BOARD 2013-14 TIMELINE

The Board timeline was reviewed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Gates moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 10:46 p.m. to discuss (Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance or Dismissal of Specific Employees, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), Purchase or Lease of Real Property, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5), Collective Negotiations, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2))

Ayes: Gate, Felton, Traczyk, O’Connor, Sacks, Brisben, and Spatz

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Sacks moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education move into open session at 11:47 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Spatz declared the meeting adjourned at 11:47 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, May 13, 2014 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Administration building located at 970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois.

Board President

Board Secretary