

Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97
260 Madison Street, Oak Park
November 15, 2022 Regular Meeting

This meeting was held in-person and virtually using Livestream. Board members met in person along with Administration.

Vice President Hurd Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Present: Kim (joined remote), Moore, Ross Dribin, Spurlock, Kearney, Hurd Johnson, Kinhal (arrived at 6:12 pm)

Absent: None

Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Ushma Shah, Associate Superintendent of Education Dr. 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 Dr. Eboney Lofton, Senior Director of Equity Dr. Carrie Kamm, Senior Director of Buildings & Grounds Jeanne Keane, Senior Director of Finance Patrick King, Financial Consultant Robert Grossi and Lonya Boose Board Secretary.

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Spurlock 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, Collective Negotiating.5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1)(2) at 6:04 p.m.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Vice President Hurd Johnson motioned that the Board move into Open Session at 7:05 p.m. All present members of the Board were in agreement. The Board convened in Open Session at 7:09 p.m.

OPEN
SESSION

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment

PUBLIC
COMMENT

4. SPECIAL REPORTS

4.1 #D97Joy Culture and Celebration Update

Middle School Rainbow Clubs Receive 2022 Founders Award

Congratulations to Brooks and Julian rainbow clubs on being honored by the Oak Park Area Lesbian and Gay Association+. Staff sponsors include Abby Berman, Brooks social worker; Nate Murawski, Julian social worker and Ashley Kannan Julian humanities teacher.

SPECIAL
REPORTS

As recipients of the 2022 Founders Award, Rainbow Club was recognized at the OPALGA+ Scholarship Annual Gala on October 22. Rainbow club works to create welcoming and accepting school environments for middle-school students, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. District 97 is proud of this

recognition by the broader community as this club works to create an equitable and inclusive learning environment for its peers.

Julian Girls Basketball Team Captures Conference Title

Congratulations to the Julian Middle School eight-grade girls basketball team for finishing top of the West Suburban Conference this season. Julian had a hard-fought win over Brooks Middle School in the championship game. Thank you, team, families and both Coach Kannan and Coach Lewis for all of your support this season! Great Job Team!

Brooks Environmental Club Meets with Senator Don Harmon

Brooks Earth Action Team (BEAT) and their sponsor, science teacher Laura Stamp, met with Illinois Senate President Don Harmon on November 3, 2022 about the fight to save the Bell Bowl Prairie. Club BEAT discussed the targeted demolition of Bell Bowl Prairie as part of the Chicago Rockford International Airport expansion. During their presentation, students provided Senator Harmon with history including ecological significance and the potential consequences of future destruction.

Harmon thanked the students for their thoughtful, well-researched presentation and assured them that he would share their letters with the U.S. Senators Tammy Duckworth and Dick Durbin.

Staff/District Recognition – November 15, 2022

#ThankABoardMember Day is November 15, 2022. Thank you, Board President Jung Kim; Vice President Venus Hurd Johnson and board members Nancy Ross Dribin, Gavin Kearney, Shyla Kinhal, Cheree Moore and Holly Spurlock for your dedicated service to our families, staff and community.

This day recognizes the efforts of nearly 6,000 elected school board members across the State of Illinois. We are grateful for your tireless efforts, advocacy and commitment to District 97. Thank You.

Educational Support Professionals Day – November 16, 2022

Thank you, District 97 teacher assistants, media assistants, administrative assistants, custodial and maintenance staff, food service staff, health and student services staff, technology staff and transportation services for all the care and expertise you give our students and staff daily.

#WeLoveOurESP's day celebrates the individual attention, care and support given to our students to meet their unique learning needs both inside and outside of the classroom. Happy Educational Support Professionals Day.

4.2 Winter Weather: Preparation and Response

The district 97 administrative team joined tonight's meeting to provide an overview of 2022-2023 winter preparedness which includes information on Healthy Schools and Winter Weather. Everyday strategies and tips from CDC, IDPH and District 97 School Nurses.

District 97 plans to continue its ongoing partnership with Oak Park Department of Public Health along with District 200. Maximize ventilation and continue when needed to conduct air quality testing. Maintain supply of COVID-19 tests and masks, while also providing increased communication and reminders to include staying home when sick.

Staffing

Regarding proactive staffing strategies, District 97 is continuously working to maintain a large pool of qualified substitutes. Since the start of the pandemic, the district has made an investment in providing permanent substitutes in every building. The community can also support this effort by serving as a daily substitute teacher. If interested please go to www.op97.org and apply!

Emergency Closings

District 97 always strives to have schools open. However, our top priority is the safety of our students and staff. If heavy snow or extreme cold makes it dangerous to travel, a decision to close schools could be made. There are two options if this decision has to be made, 1. E-learning Day, a day of which will not need to be made up. 2. Emergency Closing Day, of which will need to be made up at the end of the school year. Administration will always strive to communicate closures and E-Learning days in advance, by way of email, robocall/text message, on social media and using the Emergency Closing Center.

Additional details of this presentation can be found by viewing the livestream on the district's YouTube channel.

4.3 Superintendent Transition 150-Day Report Out

Dr. Shah provided the Board of Education and community with her 150-day report out. This information can be viewed by watching the recording of the board meeting on the district's YouTube channel.

5. ACTION ITEMS

ACTION
ITEMS

5.1 APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Spurlock moved, seconded by Moore that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 moves to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- 5.1.1 Approval of Minutes from the October 25, 2022 Board Meeting
- 5.1.2 Bill List
- 5.1.3 Personnel
- 5.1.4 Approval : ISBE School Maintenance Grant
- 5.1.5 Approval : Beye Elementary PTO Donation
- 5.1.6 Approval : Mann PTO Field Trip Donation
- 5.1.7 Approval : Authorization to Pay Bills and Hire November/December 2022

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

5.2 DISCUSSION AND ACTION

5.2.1 Approval: Intergovernmental Agreement with Village of Oak Park (For purposes of Reciprocal Reporting, the Provision of a Law Enforcement Officer to Serve on District's Threat Assessment Team, and for the Provision of General Procedures for Law Enforcement Action on School Grounds.

Motion

Kearney moved, seconded by Kinhal that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 approves the proposed IGA with the Village of Oak Park contingent upon the inclusion of the additional provisions noted on:

- Slide 12 which explicitly limits the scope of student record information to be shared with law enforcement.
- Slide 14 which explicitly limits law enforcement interviews of minor students on school grounds.

Ayes: Kim, Kearney, Moore, Hurd Johnson, Kinhal

Nays: Ross Dribin, Spurlock

Absent: None
Motion passed.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM w/ ACTION

ADMINISTRATIVE
ITEMS w/ ACTION

6.1 Tentative Tax Levy Presentation

(Presented by Patrick King and Robert Grossi)

Summary

On November 15, 2022, Administration will be presenting the proposed tax levy for the 2022 levy year. On that date, the Board of Education will be asked to approve the tentative tax levy and to direct publication of the notice of the tax levy hearing to be held on December 13, 2022, which is the same date the Board will adopt the final tax levy.

The Financial Oversight and Review Committee (“FORC”) met on November 2, 2022 and recommended that the Board of Education approve a tax levy that would capture the allowable 5.0% growth allowed under the property tax extension limitation laws (PTELL). Please note that you will only be approving the tentative levy on that date and the final tax levy approved in December can be different from the tentative levy.

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. The attached presentation provides the details of the tax levy, historical financial summary, and five-year financial projections which justify the levy request.

Action: Authorization to post Public Hearing Notice

Spurlock moved, seconded by Moore that the Board of Education, of Oak Park Elementary School District 97, adopt the Estimated Levy for the 2022 Tax Year and Authorize to Publish for a Public Hearing on December 13, 2022.

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

7. BOARD ASSIGNMENTS

BOARD
ASSIGNMENTS

- FORC met on Wednesday November 2, 2022 to discuss the tentative tax levy ahead of the presentation tonight. We had a chance to hear from Jeanne Keane, Senior Director of Buildings & Grounds, who presented overview of capital projects. We were also able to go over historical levy projections, as it compares to current levy percentage needs.
- IGOV was recently joined by Senator Harmon. Discussions included safety concerns, consistency, equity.
- OPEF is scheduled to meet on November 16, 2022.
- The Collaboration for Early Childhood held its governing board meeting recently. The Collaboration is planning a Tri-Board meeting for December 7, 2022 at which time experts will present on Social/Emotional wellbeing for children and families.

- Oak Park Community Council met recently continuing its discussion on the pool renovations. There was also discussion around safety, as a situation took place recently at the highschool requiring a soft lockdown.

8. CONCLUDING ITEMS

CONCLUDING
ITEMS

8.1 Board Remarks

- Board member Ross Dribin, makes a request to have information on safe gun storage added back to the digital backpack.
- Vice President Hurd Johnson, notes her appreciation for working with and time spent with each of the board members in honor of Board member appreciation day. She also notes an appreciation for the diversity of opinions among her fellow board members, and thanks everyone for their impact on this board and the community.

9. ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

All Seven Present and Virtual Members of the Board were in agreement that the meeting be adjourned. There being no further business to conduct, Vice President Hurd Johnson declared the meeting adjourned by voice vote at 9:20 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary