

# **Inquiry Network for Factual Outreach**

## **(INFO)**

### **OVERVIEW:**

School districts across the country are subject to a vast array of regulation from well known federal ones such as NCLB (No Child Left Behind) and IDEA (Individual with Disabilities Education Act) and equally well known state ones such as PTELL (Property Tax Extension Limitation Law – Tax Caps) and TIFs (Tax Increment Financing) to fairly obscure ones such as regulations on the purchasing of cleaning supplies. The quantity and subject matter of these regulations make it difficult for stakeholders to understand their impact on school districts and communities. Furthermore, the complexity of the regulations has led to misleading information being accepted as fact. These factors can result in a misperception of what is really in the best interests of all individual stakeholders in the community. Therefore, to ensure that stakeholders' best interests are considered, it is necessary to engage legislators in an on-going dialogue about educational issues that impact both the community and District 97.

### **PURPOSE:**

The **INQUIRY NETWORK for FACTUAL OUTREACH (INFO)** will engage the Board and all District 97 stakeholders, including its legislators, in a transparent analysis and open discussion of the impacts of existing and proposed local, county, state, and federal legislation, policies, and practices to develop a shared understanding that will allow District 97 to achieve its mission.

### **CHARGE:**

The **INFO** will:

- Review and analyze legislation at the local, county, state and federal levels directly impacting District 97;
- Disseminate the findings of the research and analysis of legislation to the Board and appropriate District 97 committees for study and impact;
- Create and implement strategies for communicating the **INFO** analysis and information to all stakeholders;
- Strengthen connections and two-way information sharing with organizations involved in education related legislation, especially those with whom the district currently has a formal relationship;
- Establish an ongoing dialogue with Oak Park's local, county, state, and federal legislative delegations;
- Provide the Board with an annual report on the work of the **INFO**.

## **AUTHORITY:**

The **INFO** will be a standing committee of the Board of Education.

## **COMPOSITION:**

The **INFO** will consist of two Board members, two staff members appointed by the Superintendent, two members of District 97 bargaining units chosen by unit leadership, and at least seven Board-appointed community members who possess relevant experience and knowledge. The Board will ascertain that the community members do not have any conflicts of interest in serving on the committee. For the first two year term the Board will appoint the chair after which the **INFO** will select its chair. All members will be asked to serve for two years with the exception of the fiscal year 2009-10, when half of the community members will be asked to serve one year. A term limit of four terms will apply to Board and community members. The **INFO** will meet at least quarterly.

## **OPEN MEETINGS:**

As a Board committee, all **INFO** meetings will be subject to the Illinois Open Meetings Act.