

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
Meeting - September 13, 2011**

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Barber (6:09 p.m.), Gates, Sacks, Reddy, Traczyk, Spatz, and O'Connor

Absent: None

Also Present: Superintendent Al Roberts, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Therese O'Neill, Human Resources Director Trish Carlson, Director of Policy, Planning and Communications Chris Jasculca, Director of Special Education Mike Padavic and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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SESSION

Traczyk moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 6:01 p.m. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Traczyk, Gates, Reddy, Sacks, O'Connor, and Spatz

Nays: None

Absent: Barber

Also present: Dr. Roberts, Trish Carlson and Sheryl Marinier

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Traczyk moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education move into open session at 7:02 p.m. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Reddy, Sacks, O'Connor, Traczyk, Spatz, and Barber

Nays: None

Motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARING - 2011-12 Tentative Budget

PUBLIC HEARING

Therese O'Neill shared an overview of the tentative budget. The public was invited to speak on this topic; there were no speakers.

Consent Agenda

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda was moved forward on the agenda to allow for the introduction of new staff prior to the special reports.

Reddy moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the consent agenda as presented in the Board packet. Roll call vote.

2.2.1 Bill Lists and Related Reports

2.3.1 Personnel Action as presented

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

New hires were introduced to the Board.

SPECIAL REPORTS

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Bond Discussion – William Blair

Therese O'Neill and Liz Hennessy came to the table. The discussion about when to sell bonds was led by Hennessy. She noted that anticipated projects showed the need for about \$12,236,632. Hennessy demonstrated the difference between the issuance of one large sale of bonds versus three smaller sales. She demonstrated that it is more cost efficient to run three bond sales, and reported that the Finance Oversight and Review Committee (FORC) made the recommendation to support this option.

Board comments and questions included a show of support for three smaller sales. The Board made it clear that this discussion did not include the relocation of the administrative office. It was noted that this plan would support the district for only three years of a five-year plan and discussions in the future would need to take place. The FORC was acknowledged for their efforts and dedication.

PUBLIC COMMENT

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACTION ITEMS

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2.1.1 Approval of Minutes of August 23, 2011

Spatz moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the August 23, 2011 meeting as revised. Roll call vote.

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

President Barber welcomed the board secretary back and thanked Tulicia Edwards for filling in on short notice at the August 23 meeting.

2.4.1 Approval of School Recognition Applications

Traczyk moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the School Recognition Applications for all 10 District 97 schools. The applications, as completed by District 97 administrators, verify that all District 97 schools are in compliance with the School Code and State Board of Education. Roll call vote.

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

2.4.2 Annual Approval of Grants

Gates moved, seconded by Traczyk, that the Board of Education, District 97, receive and award all grants delineated in the attached spreadsheets. Roll call vote.

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

2.4.3 Non-Engagement of No Child Left Behind

Traczyk moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education, District 97, agree to not engage in any intergovernmental agreements with neighboring school districts that did not reach the Adequate Yearly Progress goal outlined in the No Child Left Behind Act. Roll call vote.

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

2.4.4 Approval of New Committee Charges

Reddy moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education approve the revised charges for the Finance Oversight and Review Committee, the Facilities Advisory Committee and the Policy Committee. Roll call vote.

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

2.4.5 Approval of Establishment of C.L.A.I.M

Gates moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education approve the establishment of C.L.A.I.M, the Committee for Legislative Action, Intervention, and Monitoring, as a standing committee and the committee charge as modified at the table. Roll call vote.

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

President Barber asked that the Board members prepare lists of priorities and forward them to Member Gates prior to September 20, 2011. Members O'Connor and Gates volunteered to be the liaisons for this committee. Chris Jasculca was asked to notify the community, sharing the charge and announcing that the Board is seeking members for this committee.

President Barber requested a list of FAC and FORC members who will be stepping down later this year. Thanks was extended to Jim Gates and Bob Spatz for the continued efforts in developing this committee.

2.4.6 Residency Hearing – Family 112

Sacks moved, seconded by Traczyk, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the findings of the residency hearing for family 112. Roll call vote.

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

2.4.7 Residency Hearing – Family 212

Gates moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the findings of the residency hearing for family 212. Roll call vote.

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

2.4.8 Approval of Board of Education Goals

Board goals were discussed. Member O'Connor shared a document that compared the Board's goals to the superintendent's goals. Discussion led to the Board requesting Chris Jасulca to review the document and modify the wording as needed.

Traczyk moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the Board goals as outlined in the Board Goals document for the 2011-12 school year. Roll call vote.

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

2.4.9 Approval of Superintendent's Goals

O'Connor moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the superintendent's goals as outlined in the Superintendent's Goals document for the 2011-12 school year. Roll call vote.

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

TOPIC REPORTS

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DISCUSSION ABOUT POTENTIAL JOINT BOARD MEETING

President Barber reported that the school boards from districts 97, 90 and 200, are all scheduled to hold board meetings on January 10, 2012. Discussion took place regarding potential topics for a joint meeting. Shared data options and improved communication in tough financial times were suggested. Building camaraderie, curriculum issues and math trajectory were also considered. It was suggested that the three superintendents work together to prepare topics for discussion. It was suggested that Carolyn

Newberry-Schwartz from the Collaboration for Early Childhood be included in this meeting. A committee to investigate school consolidations was suggested. President Barber will reach out to the other presidents. Members Gates and O'Connor volunteered to brainstorm ideas with Dr. Roberts, who will plan the agenda with the other two superintendents.

VISION STATEMENT

Member Sacks introduced the sample statements for consideration. The majority of the Board liked the sixth option, which read "learning with purpose and respect.", however, concern was expressed that the statement was not aspirational or as compelling as it could be, as well as a bit brief. It was agreed that member Sacks would consider the suggestions of the Board and prepare additional draft statement for discussion.

PTO MEETING DATES

The scheduled PTO meeting dates were shared and Board members volunteered to attend one at each school. The board secretary will contact the schools and PTOs to let them know that the Board members will be visiting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Roberts reported that the ISAT data will be discussed at the next meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT
S REPORT

He addressed AYP, noting that the district must focus on learning and not the score card mentality produced by focusing on one test. He will look at the data from the student growth model and report his findings to the Board.

District 200 will be sending three representatives to the October 22 Data First Workshop.

Chris Jasculca and Cao Mac represented the district at the Council of Governments meeting held today. The meeting focused on technology and was attended by communications and technology representatives from all government agencies within the village. Gary Balling offered to help with planning for outside spaces.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Member Reddy announced that she will be moving to Long Island, New York and will need to resign from the Board as of September 30, 2011. Dr. Roberts acknowledged her leadership and team efforts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Barber reported that the Board will have 45 days from the time that Member Reddy resigns to fill her position. Reddy will need to present the board secretary with a letter of resignation on that day. The district's policies dictate how this process will unfold. Member Sacks volunteered to coordinate the efforts and will work with the board secretary to create an application.

Discussion took place regarding Member Reddy's committee assignments and the need to fill in for her during the interim.

Jasculca reported that the district submitted four nominations for the Those Who Excel awards, including one for the Board of Education to the Those Who Excel program and all four nominees won awards. They will be recognized at a banquet on October 22 in Normal, Illinois. Carolina Song, Sue Tresselt and Carolyn Newberry-Schwartz were acknowledged for writing letters of recommendation on behalf of the Board.

Jim Gates has earned the title of Step-1 Master Board Member through the Illinois State Board of Education.

The Board was reminded about the Data First Workshop scheduled for Saturday, October 22 from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The Board was reminded that Jerry Weast will be speaking in Naperville.

The Board was invited to attend the League of Women Voters meeting next Wednesday at Beye School, where Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon will be the guest speaker.

Member Sacks attended a PING meeting. She reported that the program provides instruments for the next generation of students and offers a wonderful mentoring program.

The Board was encouraged to attend the Elected Officials BBQ scheduled for Thursday, September 22, 2011.

The Board was encouraged to check out the IASB online programs as they are a great way to earn the status of master school board member.

BOARD CONCERNS

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Members Gates and Spatz will be attending the West Cook Fall Dinner on September 29.

The Board was asked to give some thought to strategic plan strategies two and four, ensuring that every child is given the opportunity to be an active agent for his/her educational experience and that the district is meeting the needs of the whole child.

It was suggested that if the technology committee was a Board committee, it would be more focused on the infrastructure and the educational aspects. Additionally, it was suggested that the Board should consider appointing people to this committee who possess experience in making large purchases.

It was reported that meetings that focus on ISAT scores tend to be well attended and that parents appreciate when the Board communicates this kind of data to them.

It was reported that it was pleasing to see children playing on the new pavers at Julian.

BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

None

**BOARD RESPONSE
TO PUBLIC
COMMENT**

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Barber declared the meeting adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, September 27, 2011, beginning at 7 p.m. at the district office located at 970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois.

Board President

Board Secretary