

Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97
260 Madison Street, Oak Park
June 13, 2023 Regular Meeting

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

President Kearney called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Present: Kearney, Moore, Ross Dribin, Kim, Burns, Spurlock, Hurd Johnson (Left at 8:00pm)

Absent: None

Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Ushma Shah, Chief Academic and Accountability Officer Dr. Eboney Lofton, Director of Human Resources Dr. Margo Schmitt, Senior Director of Technology Michael Arensdorff, Senior Director of Equity Dr. Carrie Kamm, Senior Director of Buildings & Grounds Jeanne Keane, Senior Director of Finance Patrick King, Senior Director of Communications Amanda Siegfried, Chief Legal and Equity Officer Luis Rodriguez and Lonya Boose Board Secretary.

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Spurlock moved, seconded by Kim that the Board move into executive session for the purpose of Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees, Collective Negotiating and Litigation.5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1)(2)(11) at 6:05 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

OPEN SESSION

President Kearney motioned that the Board move into Open Session at 6:57 p.m. All present members of the Board were in agreement. The Board convened in Open Session at 7:02 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

From: David Wells

PUBLIC COMMENT

I have been a permanent substitute for the last three years. I was hired during the pandemic. To give you a little back story, last Fall I was picking up my son from a homecoming dance. I walked from home to the high school thinking oh my, all of the kids that I had who are now in the ninth grade, I am about to encounter. There was one student who was in special education at Julian, who noticed me and said, Hi Mr. Wells. This is what I encounter on my walks here in Oak Park this is my experience as a resident and substitute teacher in this community.

I wanted to also share an email from Mr. Kannan who leads Rainbow Tribe. I hope this message finds you well, at a resent tribe meeting, your name was brought up as a teacher, who provides a great example of what all adults should be doing in the classroom to make our students feel welcomed. You are doing great things with our LGBTQ+ students and wanted to share this message, Thank you Mr. Kannan and Mr. Murawski on behalf of Rainbow Tribe.

My intent is not to stand here in front of you and share how great I am, that is not who I am as a person or how I was raised. My intent is to share with you, we as permanent substitutes, plug holes, we are the PE teacher, we coach track, I've taught long term classes here in the district.

I also feel confused. This is my third time in front of the Board. The first few times, was during transition. I have been asking why as full-time permanent substitutes, do we not receive benefits, sick days? You offered us benefits a couple of years and we were just fired at the end of other school years.

I recently emailed Margo Schmitt to better understand why we are not eligible to receive benefits. The initial reply said she will get back to me within a week. I sent a follow up on around May 20 and no reply. If there is a reason, I would like to know what that reason is, Is the reason maybe technically, is this a letter of the law and for that reason, we don't have to be offered benefits? I would just like to know the reason. I think we have become someone else's problem. I will be following up this information in an email. I hope you consider my request.

Thank you for your time.

4. #D97Joy Culture and Celebration Update

(Dr. Shah, Superintendent)

#D97 JOY

End of Year Staff and Student Celebrations

Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Heritage Month

Student at Julian Middle school put on an educational expo on June 1, 2023 for Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Heritage (APIDA) Month, observed in May. During the event students were able to visit different booths, view artifacts, listen to APIDA music and talk with the committee members about the rich, diverse histories and culture of the Asian Pacific Islander Desi American community.

Pride Month | District 97 School Celebrations

In support and recognition of Pride Month, our school community showed their support for the LGBTQ+ community. Many activities took place over the past couple weeks including student-led assemblies, Pride shirt days and bulletin board displays. Brooks Middle School Social Worker, Ms. Berman and Julian Middle School culture and climate coach, Ms. Trathen hosted assemblies to celebrate LGBTQ+ students, families and staff.

Last Day of School | June 9, 2023

Dr. Shah shares her appreciation for the strong finish to the school year and thanks students, staff, parents and the community for all of their hard work, input and support. Dr. Shah is looking forward to the upcoming year and hopes everyone enjoy their summer.

5. District Priority Update

Dr. Carrie Kamm, Patrick Robinson, Sarah Mendez and Marianne Rehfield presented a deck entitled "Listening Leaders: SY23 Elementary School Culture and Climate Efforts." The purpose of this presentation was to understand the results of the Elementary Panorama School Culture and Climate Survey Data. Students' graders 3-5 were given this survey to better understand their perspectives. The survey is given twice a year in November and April. The results of this survey helps to inform school improvement goals and school-level actions and strategies.

DISTRICT
PRIORITY
UPDATE

Details of this presentation can be seen by viewing the livestream of the Board of Education meeting.

6. ACTION ITEMS**6.1 Consent Agenda**

Spurlock moved, seconded by Kim that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 moves to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

- 6.1.1 Approval of Minutes from the May 23, 2023 Board Meeting
- 6.1.2 Bill List
- 6.1.3 Personnel
- 6.1.4 Approval : Device Disposal and Recycle Request
- 6.1.5 Approval : Curriculum Donation and Recycling Request
- 6.1.6 Approval : Art Supply Donation
- 6.1.7 Approval : Irving Elementary PTO Donation
- 6.1.8 Approval : Depositories and Signatories

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

6.2 Action**6.2.1 Approval: Hephzibah Intergovernmental Agreement (5.23.23)**

Kim moved, seconded by Spurlock that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 moves to approve the Hephzibah Program Agreement Renewal that was presented on May 23, 2023.

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

6.2.2 Approval: Technology Plan (5.23.23)

Spurlock moved, seconded by Ross Dribin that the Board of Education of Oak Park School District 97, directs that \$712,001.13 be included in the District 97 2023-2024 Technology Plan budget, of that total \$677,001.13 have already been approved for device leases cover purchases, as presented and discussed at the May 23, 2023 meeting.

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

6.3 PERSONNEL ACTION**6.3.1 Appointment of New District Treasurer**

Kim moved, seconded by Ross Dribin that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 moves to appoint, Sheila Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations as its District Treasurer per the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools.

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

7. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

7.1 SY23-24 Contracts Over \$25,000 (action 7.11.23)

Teaching & Learning

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to request approval for the procurement of instructional materials and professional learning for the Teaching and Learning department that involves contract and contract renewals that exceed \$25,000. The current vendors that require consideration for approval are outlined below by category. The contract obligations total \$452,344.82. A document with additional detail can be found here: SY24 Contracts in Excess of \$25,000 (6.2023)

Instructional Materials

The below outlines the instructional materials and supports (both print and digital) leveraged in all classrooms to support literacy skill acquisition and fine motor skill development. Lexia is currently available for students in classrooms serving students from kindergarten through eighth grade. Handwriting Without Tears is available in classrooms supporting students from kindergarten through second grade. The total spending amount is anticipated to be \$73,000.

Vendor Name	Contracted Service Type	Total Amount SY24
Lexia	Instructional Materials	\$48,000.00
<u>Handwriting Without Tears</u>	Instructional Materials	\$25,000.00

Mastery of Standards

A balanced assessment system effectively measures the depth and breadth of student learning and monitors student progress towards college and career readiness. Key to a balanced assessment system are measures that provide districtwide information about the mastery of standards. The Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), developed by NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association), is a computerized adaptive test, given to students in grades K-8, that measures a child's academic growth from season to season and year to year in the areas of mathematics, reading, and language usage. aimswebPlus offers nationally-normed, skills-based benchmark assessments and progress monitoring integrated into one application across reading and math domains. aimswebPlus is given three times a year for students who achieve a score below the 40th percentile on the NWEA (the district's universal screener). MasteryConnect benchmark assessments are designed to provide information on what students should

know and be able to do by the end of the year as determined by the Illinois State Board of Education. Additionally, MasteryConnect is the only District 97 benchmark assessment that measures student proficiency on all priority standards. MasteryConnect benchmark assessments serve as a compass for how students are progressing with their understanding of the Illinois Learning Standards at various points throughout the school year and are administered three times a year in grades four through eight. The anticipated spending amounts to \$199,344.82.

Vendor Name	Contracted Service Type	Total Amount SY24
aimsWebPlus	Student Growth Measure	\$75,000.00
NWEA MAP	Student Growth Measure	\$75,465.00
Instructure MasteryConnect (Grades:4-8)	Instructional Materials AND Professional Learning	\$48,879.82

Clinical Services

Social emotional health and well-being is a critical for students. The district is seeking to renew its contract with the Oak Park Mental Health Board and DePaul University to support Tier 2 services at elementary schools and to continue to provide targeted support to the middle schools. The total anticipated spending amounts to \$180,000.

Vendor Name	Contracted Service Type	Total Amount SY24
DePaul University Partnership (current)	Clinical Services	\$90,000.00
Funding Partnership with District 97 and DePaul University (Tier 2 Expansion) (current agreement)	Clinical Services	\$90,000.00

Student Services

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to request approval for the procurement of instructional materials, clinical services, tuition and professional learning for the Student Services Department that involve contract and contract renewals that exceed \$25,000. The current vendors that require consideration for approval are outlined below by category. The anticipated contract obligations total \$3,355,104.38. The contracts that rely on IDEA grant funds total \$351,131.32. Of the \$2,164,987.00 earmarked for out-of-district tuition, \$1,731,989.60 is reimbursable by the Illinois State Board of Education at a rate of 80%. The total recommended general fund obligation is \$1,271,938.46.

Instructional Materials

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) requires that districts provide specially designed instruction to students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). The instructional materials and the requisite professional learning below are funded by the IDEA grant in

the amount of \$114,378.95. Details about each vendor are linked in the table.

Vendor Name	Contracted Service Type	Total Amount SY24
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt: HMH Read 180 HMH Math 180	Instructional Materials AND Professional Learning	\$35,078.47
Wilson Reading System	Instructional Materials AND Professional Learning	\$51,300.48
Enome (Goalbook)	Instructional Materials AND Professional Learning	\$28,000.00

Related Service Providers

Additionally, in order to ensure that services are provided per IDEA and to meet our obligation to our private, parochial, independent and home school partners (in our capacity as a flow through entity) that ensures access to special education and related services, the contracts outlined below allows the district to provide speech and language services to all students in our district as well as the students that are parentally placed in private schools (inclusive of the aforementioned schooling categories). The total anticipated funding from the IDEA grant amounts to \$236,752.37.

Vendor Name	Contracted Service Type	Total Amount SY24
Cheryl Harding, SLP for Private/Parochial	Related Service Provider	\$35,000.00
Foxhire, Speech Language Therapist	Related Service Provider	\$76,752.37
AnthroMed	Speech Pathologist (part-time Lincoln/private and parochial)	\$125,000.00

FMLA Coverage

The Student Services department is not unaffected by FMLA leaves and the contracts below allow the district to ensure that special education and related services are provided to students with IEPs uninterrupted. The funding from the general fund totals \$838,986.06.

Vendor Name	Contracted Service Type	Total Amount SY24
Foxhire, FMLA Special Education Teachers	Special Education Teachers (FMLA)	\$86,500.00
Procure Therapy (FMLA)	Related Service Providers	\$152,486.06
Therapy Travelers (FMLA Leaves and openings)	FMLA Leaves (Special Education Teachers and Related Service Providers)	\$200,000.00
<u>Pediastaff Agency</u>	<u>Related Service Providers</u>	<u>\$100,000.00</u>
Assured Health	FMLA short-term leaves and resignations for Nurses	\$100,000.00

<u>Soliant Agency</u>	FMLA Leaves (Special Education Teachers and Related Service Providers)	\$100,000.00
<u>ProCare Therapy Agency</u>	FMLA Leaves (Special Education Teachers and Related Service Providers)	\$100,000.00

Out of District Tuition

The Student Services Department also has an obligation to partially fund the tuition of students who IEP teams recommend for out-of-district placements. The contracts with these schools are outlined below. Of the \$2,164,987.00 earmarked for out-of-district tuition, \$1,731,989.60 is reimbursable by the Illinois State Board of Education at a rate of 80%. The district’s anticipated obligation is \$432,997.40.

*Complete detail listing of these expenses can be viewed by looking at the board packet materials for this discussion.

Technology

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to request approval for the procurement of instructional technology software that involve contract and contract renewals that exceed \$25,000. The current vendors that require consideration for approval are outlined below. The technology related contract obligations total \$1,217,387.97.

*Complete detail listing of these expenses can be viewed by looking at the board packet materials for this discussion.

7.2 CLIC Renewal (action 7.11.23)

Oak Park District 97 has been a member of the Collective Liability Insurance Cooperative (CLIC) since July 1, 1991. This property and liability insurance ' cooperative was established during the, 1983-1984 school year with only eight school districts as founding members. Today, the pool now has 188-member school districts.

Coverages through CLIC includes general liability, auto liability and physical damage, property, boiler & machinery insurance, school board legal liability insurance, student accident, cyber liability/identity theft, crisis protection, and pollution liability insurance. The 2022-2023 annual premium was \$355,085 and the proposed 2023-2024 premium is \$382,111, an increase of 7.6%. Attached to this memo is a cost sheet listing the variable and fixed costs that make up the annual program cost.

Attached is a memo from Risk Program Administrators, the co-op's administrator, explaining the increase is due to several factors including rising inflation, construction costs, labor costs, fuel costs and severe losses from storm throughout the United States have also caused carriers to obtain reinsurance at increased costs.

The cooperative uses the average loss ratios for the previous five years in the calculation of the 2023-2024 individual renewal rates-see attached. The overall 5-year loss ratio increased slightly for D97 compared to the prior year. While the past 2 years in the calculation were stable, the district had a large loss ratio in 2017 /18 of 552.8%, following the freezing and bursting of pipes in January of 2018 at Lincoln School. There was a slight increase in claims payments for the 2019/20 school year as well. The school board legal liability loss ratio has been as good as it can be, with a loss ratio of zero.

7.3 SELF Renewal (action 7.11.23)

School District 97 participates in the SELF Workers' Compensation Insurance Cooperative. Founded in 1986, the SELF Insurance Cooperative is self-funded, self-governed and comprised of 83-member school districts in the Chicagoland area. Rates for individual school districts within the SELF Cooperative are determined based on a combination of the overall pool performance and individual district performance.

The estimated total due to SELF will be \$332,004 for the July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024 plan year. The Large Deductible Contribution amount (at the \$25,000 deductible level) is \$281,647, to which is added an \$129,291 replenishment contribution from prior years claims expense activity as well as a \$1,500 administrative fee. However, the district will have a credit (dividend) applied of \$88,774 and a \$8,340 debit due to the payroll audit, from the 7/1/21 – 6/30/22 policy period, for an invoice total of \$332,004. This represents an increase of 7.6% over the prior year premium of \$308,458.

The increase in the premium over the prior year of 7.6% is a result of the District's claim experience and increasing salaries. The overall SELF pool is experiencing increased loss developments due to schools being fully staffed again following the pandemic. Attached is the Executive Summary from SELF, along with the quotation, which includes highlights of the rates, cost factors, and plan design from the 2023-2024 renewal presentation.

It is our hope that District 97 continues to proactively promote safe working conditions, maintaining a safe work environment, reporting claims promptly, and actively managing claims so the District continues to see favorable rates and experience ratings. The administration recommends approval of the 2023-2024 SELF Workers' Compensation Insurance Fund renewal rates as presented.

8. BOARD ASSIGNMENTS

BOARD
ASSIGNMENTS

- FAC recently met to discuss summer construction that is being delayed. Contractors will be storing materials and delaying work to be completed during spring break. Suppliers are closely looking at alternative options. Jeanne Keane and her team have also been entering energy star data, how this impact our energy usage and the direction the district is heading. We have really good members on the FAC committee. Thank you to retired members, we are gearing up for more work around sustainability.
- Middle School Health Life and Safety is scheduled to take place in 2026. Most issues are minor due to care and ongoing maintenance of existing facilities equipment as such with HVAC rooftop units. We have been able to extend the life of the equipment with regular maintenance. Most work is being done in-house. PTO donations in relation to construction was also discussed.
- Board member Burns recently attended IGOV.

9. CONCLUDING ITEMS

9.1 Board Remarks

- Vice President Ross Dribin, Dr. Shah thank you for Year 1. Thank you for all your work this year here in District 97.
- Board member Spurlock, this year’s Graduations were niche. Oak Park and River Forest High School did a great job hosing, Principals, Staff and Student speakers did a great job. School activities and assemblies were also very fun this school year. Teachers and Teams, Families, Thank you.
- BOE retreat is coming, tentatively scheduled for June 28, 2023. President Kearney and Vice President Ross Dribin will send out draft agenda information for feedback to board members. Will also provide some pre-readings ahead of the public meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

All Six present members of the Board were in agreement that the meeting be adjourned. There being no further business to conduct, President Kearney declared the meeting adjourned by motion for voice vote at 8:32p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary