Official Minutes of the Oak Park Board of Education District 97 260 Madison Street, Oak Park April 27, 2021 Meeting

This meeting was held in-person and virtually using Zoom during the time of the Coronavirus pandemic. One or more of the board members met in-person and everyone else were virtual.

Vice President Kim called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Broy, Spurlock, Kearney, Kim, Breymaier, Moore, Participated Virtually, Liebl

Absent: None

Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Carol Kelley, Director of Communications Amanda Siegfried, Senior

Director of Technology Michael Arensdorff, Senior Director of Human Resources Gina Herrmann, Chief Academic and Accountability Office Eboney Lofton, Associate Superintendent of Education Felicia Starks Turner, Senior Director of Equity Carrie Kamm, Senior Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessments Tawanda Lawrence, Senior Director of Special Education Donna Middleton, Director of MTSS Faith Cole, Recently Elected Board Members, Nancy Ross-Dribin, Venus Hurd-Johnson, Jeremy Duffy, Interim Superintendents, Dr. Patricia Wernet and Dr. Griff Powell and Board

Secretaries Lonya Boose and Sheryl Marinier.

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Kim motioned that the board move into Open Session at 7:04 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement. The Board convened in Open Session at 7:04 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment Related to Outgoing Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

ACTION ITEMS

2.1.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE April 13, 2021 BOARD MEETING

Spurlock moved, seconded by Moore that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the April 13, 2021 board meeting as presented.

ACTION ITEMS

Ayes: Spurlock, Breymaier, Kim, Moore, Liebl, Broy, and Kearney

Nays: None Absent: None

Motion passed.

2.1.2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE April 15, 2021 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Spurlock moved, seconded by Moore that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the April 15, 2021 special board meeting as presented.

Ayes: Spurlock, Breymaier, Kim, Moore, Liebl, Broy, and Kearney

Nays: None Absent: None

Motion passed.

2.1.3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE April 19, 2021 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Spurlock moved, seconded by Moore that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the April 19, 2021 special board meeting as presented.

Ayes: Spurlock, Breymaier, Kim, Moore, Liebl, Broy, and Kearney

Nays: None Absent: None

Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Spurlock moved, seconded by Moore that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the consent agenda as presented.

2.2.1 Bill List

2.2.2 Personnel

Ayes: Spurlock, Breymaier, Kim, Moore, Liebl, Broy, and Kearney

Nays: None Absent: None

Motion passed.

General

2.3.1. APPROVAL OF HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL

Moore moved, seconded by Kearney, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the Health Insurance Renewal Rates effective July 1, 2021, as presented during the April 13, 2021 Board meeting.

Ayes: Spurlock, Breymaier, Kim, Moore, Liebl, Broy, and Kearney

Nays: None Absent: None

Motion passed.

2.3.2 APPROVAL OF THE STAFFING RECOMMENDATION

Broy moved, seconded by Breymaier, that the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary District 97 approve the Staffing Proposal for SY22 as presented at the April 13, 2021 Board meeting.

Ayes: Spurlock, Breymaier, Kim, Moore, Liebl, Broy, and Kearney

Nays: None Absent: None

Motion passed.

2.3.3. APPROVAL OF WHITTIER BOILER BID

Spurlock, moved, seconded by Broy, the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97 approve the Whittier Boiler Replacement project that was presented on April 13th, 2021 in the amount of \$546, 250.

2.4.1 MOTION TO CERTIFY ELECTION RESULTS

Breymaier moved, seconded by Broy that the Board of Education, District 97, certifies the official results of the April 6, 2021 school board election as reported by the Cook County Clerk's office, naming Jeremy Duffy, Venus Hurd-Johnson and Nancy Ross-Dribin as elected to four-year terms as members of the Board of Education of School District 97.

Ayes: Spurlock, Breymaier, Kim, Moore, Liebl, Broy, and Kearney

Nays: None Absent: None

Motion passed.

2.4.2 PROCLAMATION OF NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Broy moved, seconded by Breymaier that the Board of Education, District 97, proclaim that Jeremy Duffy, Venus Hurd-Johnson and Nancy Ross-Dribin have been duly elected members to the District 97, Oak Park Board of Education.

Ayes: Moore, Broy, Spurlock, Kearney, Breymaier, Kim, and Liebl

Nays: None Absent: None Motion passed.

2.4.3 ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION ON OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

That the Board of Education, District 97, adopt the resolutions read in recognition of outgoing board members Keecia Broy, Katherine Liebl and Rob Breymaier.

Board Open Comments, to outgoing Board Members

Spurlock: Thanks, Lieble for her service as Board Member. **Kim**: Thanks, Broy for her service as President of the Board **Moore**: Thanks, Breymaier for his service as Board Member.

2.4.4 Oath of Office

Read by Nancy Ross-Dribin, Jeremy Duffy and Venus Hurd-Johnson

I, (name), **do solemnly swear** that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of member of the Board of Education of Oak Park School District 97, in accordance with the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and the laws of the State of Illinois, to the best of my ability.

I further swear that:

I shall respect taxpayer interests by serving as a faithful protector of the School District's assets;

I shall encourage and respect the free expression of opinion by my fellow Board members and others who seek a hearing before the Board, while respecting the privacy of students and employees;

I shall recognize that a Board member has no legal authority as an individual and that decisions can be made only by a majority vote at a public Board meeting;

I shall abide by majority decisions of the Board, while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions through ethical and constructive channels;

As part of the Board of Education, I shall accept the responsibility for my role in the equitable and quality education of every student in the School District;

I shall foster with the Board extensive participation of the community, formulate goals, define outcomes, and set the course for Oak Park School District 97;

I shall assist in establishing a structure and an environment designed to ensure all students have the opportunity to attain their maximum potential through a sound organizational framework;

I shall strive to ensure a continuous assessment of student achievement and all conditions affecting the education of our children, in compliance with State law;

I shall serve as education's key advocate on behalf of students and our community's school (or schools) to advance the vision for Oak Park School District 97; and

I shall strive to work together with the District Superintendent to lead the School District toward fulfilling the vision the Board has created, fostering excellence for every student in the areas of academic skills, knowledge, citizenship, and personal development.

Retiring Board Member Comments

Liebl: I would like to thank the Board Members for their commitment, understanding of the community, and its challenges, while also providing service.

Breymaier: Thank you for the opportunity to service the community and for also allowing me to serve on the Committees to District 97. It's been an honor to serve with this board. I started with three goals, one to institutionalize racial equity, two, Sustainability and three, be a conduit to the district. I am interested in seeing the progression of this new board. Would like to see more work done on equity and stewardship. I've worked to support and translate back to the community, I have seen robust conversations, with attacks made on social media. It seems everyone wants to be heard but no one is listening. While newer generations are seeming to find their voice, we have seen patterns that could create anxiety and stress. Entering into a new phase, District 97 is getting a clean start with new board members, and a new Superintendent. I look forward to seeing everyone succeed.

Broy: This has been a tremendous opportunity, I have learned so much about school systems, When I joined this board, I was new to this community. Thank you to Cabinet, the doers, they execute the decisions, I enjoyed working with Dr. Kelley's Cabinet, gracious and strategic. I will miss being a part of the work. Thankful to the board I worked with, it's been a lot, the Pandemic, some discourse but we were able to push through this, I sit here knowing that elementary kids are back 8-3 in a community that was split regarding the return, it shows how well we worked together and the vision. I feel like I am walking away from this position and everything will be great. Thank You to the students. We are student focused, but when you get to meet the kids in person, they become your focus. When you think about impact, you want to push to get things right for the kids. I will continue rooting for you Thank You.

Marinier: I would like to address the District 97 Board of Education, the Administration, the Teachers and the parents and community members.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve District 97. It has been a privilege and an honor. In my 13 plus years with the district, I have served under 3 superintendents, 21 board members, and numerous administrators. I have been the silent observer of approximately 320 board meetings.

I had a front row seat to numerous successes. Because of that, I want to take a minute of your time to share a few observations.

I would like to remind you that you are all working toward the same goal, the success of the children. It's not "us against them". It should be a mentality of "what can I do to support the other groups?"

I ask you to remember that the board members are volunteers. They are donating their time and will put in countless hours to support the district.

Please remember that the administrators are the professionals who have been put into place to make educated decisions on behalf of the children. Trust them to do their job well.

I ask that you remember that the District 97 teachers are lifelong learners. The district currently has over 50 teachers who are Nationally Board Certified.

Please remember that the parents and the community only want what is best for their children.

If you all work as one team, you will be able to achieve your common goal, which is the success of the children. Please remember to treat each other with kindness and the respect that you all deserve.

Working together, you will achieve so much more.

Thank you so much.

Broy: Thank you to the committees, the members of these groups that spend countless hours working to pass legislature, to pass important bills that assist in supporting the students of this community.

Adjournment of Outgoing Board 7:36 P.M

Convene New Board 7:37 P.M

5.1. Election of Temporary President

Moore moved, seconded by Spurlock that the Board of Education, District 97, temporarily nominate a President during the reorganization of officers.

Ayes: Kim, Kearney, Moore, Spurlock, Duffy, Ross-Dribin, Hurd-Johnson

Nays: None Absent: None

Motion passed.

5.2.1 Election of School Board President

Moore moved, seconded by Duffy that the Board of Education, District 97, accepts the Nomination and Election of Jung Kim as President of the Board of Education for School District 97 from April 27, 2021 to April 26, 2022.

Ayes: Kim, Kearney, Moore, Spurlock, Duffy, Ross-Dribin, Hurd-Johnson

Nays: None Absent: None

Motion passed.

5.2.2 Election of School Board Vice President

Kearney moved, seconded by Spurlock that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the Nomination and Election of Jeremy Duffy as Vice President of the Board of Education for School District 97 from April 27, 2021 to April 26, 2022.

Ayes: Kim, Kearney, Moore, Spurlock, Duffy, Ross-Dribin, Hurd-Johnson

Nays: None Absent: None

Motion passed.

5.2.3 Election of School Board Secretary

Spurlock moved, seconded by Duffy that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the Nomination and Election of Lonya Boose as Secretary of the Board of Education for School District 97 from April 27, 2021 to April 26, 2022

Ayes: Kim, Kearney, Moore, Spurlock, Duffy, Ross-Dribin, Hurd-Johnson

Nays: None Absent: None

Motion passed.

5.3 New Board Member Comments:

Hurd-Johnson: Thank you to the board and my new colleagues, I am excited and look forward to the work of this community, who voted me in office.

Ross-Dribin: Thank You to everyone who has been on this journey, we have big shoes to fill, you have done an amazing job. Thank You.

Duffy: Thank you to the former board, cabinet, teachers who are in the trenches every day. Thank you to the students, thank you to my wife who allows me to have the time to support this position, and the community for allowing me the opportunity to serve looking forward to the next 4 years.

ACTION ITEMS

6.1.1 <u>6.1 Resolution Recognizing Administrative Professionals Day April 21, 2021 & Teacher Appreciation Week May 3-7, 2021</u>

Action Items

Kim read the following Proclamations as presented on behalf of the Board of Education, District 97.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS DAY April 21, 2021

WHEREAS, administrative professionals play an essential role in coordinating the office operations of the District 97 schools and District Office, and

WHEREAS, administrative professionals are vital contributors in today's team-oriented work environment and are key front-line public relations ambassadors for District 97, and

WHEREAS, the work of administrative professionals today requires advanced knowledge and expertise in communications, computer software, office technology, project management, organization, customer service and other vital office management responsibilities, and most importantly, have the willingness to learn and accept new challenges, and

WHEREAS, Administrative Professionals Day is observed annually in workplaces around the world to recognize the important contributions of administrative support staff and is sponsored by the International Association of Administrative Professionals, and

WHEREAS, Administrative Professionals are dedicated to supporting the administration, children, and families of Oak Park, and

NOW, THEREFORE, The District 97 Board of Education hereby proclaim April 21, 2021 as Administrative Professionals Day.

RESOLUTION HONORING TEACHERS April 27, 2021

WHEREAS, teachers mold future citizens through guidance and education; and

WHEREAS, teachers encounter students of widely differing backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, our country's future depends upon providing quality education to all students; and

WHEREAS, teachers spend countless hours preparing lessons, evaluating progress, counseling and coaching students and performing community service; and

WHEREAS, teachers have embraced the need for remote learning experiences during the recent COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, our community recognizes and supports its teachers in educating the children of this community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Oak Park Elementary School District 97 Board of Education proclaims May 3 - 7, 2021, to be TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Oak Park Elementary School District 97 Board of Education strongly encourages all members of our community to join with it in personally expressing appreciation to our teachers for their dedication and devotion to their work. Adopted this 27th day of April, 2021.

District 97 Cabinet, Read the following proclamation to Shervl Marinier.

PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION FOR SHERYL MARINIER

For her distinguished service to Oak Park Elementary School District 97 December 19, 2007 to April 30, 2021

Whereas, Sheryl Marinier, executive assistant to the superintendent and secretary to the Board of Education, has been a dedicated employee of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 since December 19, 2007; and

Whereas, Sheryl Marinier will retire from her position on April 30, 2021, after more than 13 years of service; and

Whereas, Sheryl Marinier faithfully served three superintendents, managing the day-to-day operations of their office with professionalism, grace and a strong commitment to customer service; and

Whereas, Sheryl Marinier, in her role as board secretary, has played a vital role in supporting the District 97 Board of Education with its essential functions, including scheduling, agenda-setting, maintaining accurate records, ensuring compliance with district policies and state laws, coordinating board member trainings, and facilitating communication between the board and the public; and

Whereas, Sheryl Marinier willingly assumed more responsibilities over the course of her career, including oversight of board policy and the district's Freedom of Information Act requests; and Whereas, Sheryl Marinier's talents, creativity and generous spirit were always evident when she organized the district's annual retirement reception, as well as the many luncheons and celebrations she planned for Central Office staff; and

Whereas, Sheryl Marinier has earned the admiration and respect of her colleagues in District 97 for her dedication, professionalism, compassion and integrity;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the District 97 Board of Education that it affirms the aforementioned accomplishments of Sheryl Marinier; and

Be It Further Resolved that the District 97 Board of Education expresses its appreciation and gratitude to Sheryl Marinier for 13 years of exemplary service, and on behalf of the entire District 97 community extends best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement.

Proclaimed on this 27th day of April 2021.

6.1.2 Appointment of Interim Superintendent

Kearney moved, seconded by Spurlock that the Board of Education, District 97, appoint Dr. Griff E. Powell as interim Superintendent July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022 and the Board of Education appoint Dr. Patricia Wernet as interim Superintendent May 1, 2021- June 30, 2022 or such other date to be determined by employee and District 97.

Ayes: Kim, Kearney, Moore, Spurlock, Duffy, Ross-Dribin, Hurd-Johnson

Nays: None Absent: None

Motion passed.

Comments from Board of Education and Dr. Powell and Dr. Wernet

The Board explains role of the interim Superintendents, references details presentation from Special Board Meeting April 15, 2021.

Dr. Griff Powell explains his plan for transition, is one where both Patricia and myself will immediately get to work on assisting this district with its current needs, while also allowing the Board to focus on the needed to find District 97 a permanent Superintendent.

Dr. Patricia Wernet explains we are honored to join District 97. We also honor the past and present history and leadership of this district. Both Griff and myself are very interested in supporting the future. It has become clear in the work we do, the children come first. Our plan is to make this transition seamless and support all of you while you work to find your new Superintendent.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Back to School Update

SPECIAL

Dr. Kelley explains, we have had several open days. We are Beginning to offering full day K-5 Onsight instruction. Thank you to all involved in getting this started. We are a learning organization; we have had a few hiccups but we are preparing ourself for SY22. Two schools Hatch and Mann needed additional lunch supervision, with the help of Human Resources and District Administrative team, we were able to support. We are still encouraging the community if you are able to help with recreation and mealtime supervision, to go to the District 97 website and complete the online application. We want to be sure we are covered, I have visited schools this week, many adults would not have believed the students ability to safely eat, and do recess. The joys of student laughter on the playground brought tears to my eyes. Thank you to the staff, thank you for the successful opening during this pandemic.

Nurses, will begin using seating charts for classrooms and other areas. Since we are not able to cohort students, this will allow for better contract tracing. We want to make this as simple as possible based on the guidelines and recommendations. Thank you to Jeanne Keane for working out the logistics of getting the meals distributed in the schools. Thank you to Michael Arensdorff for providing additional hot spots for the remainder of the school year where needed for outdoor classroom spaces. I'm amazed by all the hard work of the school-based personnel. Principals, Teacher's, Teacher Assistants and other Support Staff. Beginning May 3, 2021 Middle School students will transition to onsite full days.

We are still in a pandemic; it is important we maintain our diligence in keeping all safety mitigations in place. In terms of planning for S/Y22, we want to be ready for opening by June 10, 2021working with the Board, to potentially approve final plans by June 8 2021Board Meeting.

Community should look for and abide by registration process for the upcoming school year. We are asking if you can please complete this process before we break for Memorial Day. This will allow the District to have a good indication as to how many students will be returning in the Fall. We would like summer to be just that for our staff.

Eboney Lofton explains, the hope is, by June 8 we will walk into summer knowing what the next school year will look like. There will be some recommendation coming as far as context around communications to parents. We are working to make sure we are adequately staffed. As an equity concern, we want to make sure we know how many staff members we need, as to be sure we are providing the best educational model.

Board Comments, I need clarification on June 8 date for SY22 preparation. Is there a remote option for students?

Dr. Kelley explains, criteria for going remote, will be based on information provided from ISBE along with the State. The school board can make further restrictions, on option for remote vs. onsite at that time.

Eboney Lofton explains, criteria now, is for students with underlying health issues, we will work with our legal team to make sure we are providing students with need based on ISBE recommendations.

Dr. Kelley explains, we do not know a definitive date on these recommendations from ISBE, we will report that information once those recommendations come out.

Board Member Comments, preparing for the Fall by June 8 will be hard, I understand allowing staff to take some vacation, how does this look?

Dr. Kelley explains, other Districts are now planning for the Fall. This is an opportunity to see what works, what do we want to continue, make changes to or need help to support. Next school year will look very similar to what has already been taking place, pending any reemergence of the pandemic, we can be ready for the fall.

PUBLIC COMMENT

PUBLIC COMMENT

Karen Fogg comments, I am a resident of Oak Park and 5th grade Teacher at Beye School. I continue to feel extremely frustrated by the situation with my friend and colleague Patrick Mc Andrew. From being falsely accused of fraudulently using sick days, to an extended administrative leave from his classroom, to being suspended. Currently OPTA is filling a grievance to get his ten days pay and expunge his record. How did we get this wrong, we are feeling frustrated? Patrick has shown dignity and professional enthusiasm throughout his work, a light that cannot be extinguished. I would like for administration to listen. He has the right to get his contract renewed, do the right thing. I ask you to look at the process, look at the man, you have the opportunity to do the right thing, so do it.

Patrick McAndrew comments, Good evening District 97 Board, my name is Patrick McAndrew and while many of you are already familiar with my story others are not, so I thought I would use this opportunity to share a little about my year as a district 97 5th grade teacher. The challenges of teaching in a year of a pandemic have created untold stresses on every individual. As a teacher, these were further exacerbated by the shift to remote instruction, then a hybrid model, and finally full-time instruction with some students still remote. Through all of this, every teacher maintained a sense of professionalism, flexibility, positivity, and compassion. Our students were welcomed with a sense of joy and quickly became a cohesive community - strengthened by our shared understanding of one another. Each day we expressed a deep empathy for the fears and sadness that were invading our lives. It was with compassion, kindness, and understanding that we were able to learn and grow together.

My own personal health and well-being had become compromised by the fact that I had been separated from my family for over a year and isolated alone in my apartment. I needed to return home for my own mental health as well as that of my family in Nepal. Having finally gotten permission from the Nepalese government, I was able to travel home and reunite with them in January. We were still teaching remotely at that time and my plan was to teach from Nepal, which I did. Since that week, my life has become a virtual nightmare. I was accused of fraudulent use of sick days, described as uncooperative, and

unprofessional and treated with absolutely no compassion or empathy. This all coming from a school district that, from the beginning of this pandemic, insisted that we show ourselves "self-care" and treat ourselves with "grace". At this point it has become clear that those were mere words.

I began teaching in this district back in 1997. I taught at Beye School for 12 years and earned tenure to continue in this district as long as I chose. After moving to Nepal to teach for 7 years, I returned to this school district with the intention of finishing my career and retiring from district 97. My school is a place that I love. I love the teachers. I love the students. I love the community. I have given everything to my school. I teach with passion and integrity. I treat my coworkers and my administrators with professionalism and respect. But for some individuals, this apparently wasn't enough. The accusations that were leveled at me were hurtful, damaging and personal. I was recommended for termination for using sick days during a global pandemic. When I share my story with other individuals from other school districts; they are shocked by the inhumanity and the total lack of respect and dignity that was shown to me. All this from a school and a district that I have dedicated 15 years of my life to making an outstanding place of learning.

Last week, I was recommended for nonrenewal of my contract. This came after two outstanding evaluations from our previous principal, Mr. Jonathan Ellwanger and just one year shy of regaining my tenure in district 97 and at the end of my first day back after two and a half months of paid administrative leave and 10 days unpaid suspension. This was brought before the board, and again my community stood and supported me with letters and public comments. And yet, the board voted for my nonrenewal. It was the ultimate slap in the face after my recommendation for termination was outvoted by that same board just a month ago. This abuse and maltreatment of a seasoned and outstanding educator, myself - stands as a testament to the treatment that teachers throughout this country have withstood for years, and which escalated with the onset of this pandemic. We are not considered by this administration as professionals, but rather, a disposable commodity, day-care workers that can be dismissed if we speak out for ourselves, demand respectful treatment, or question what is truly best for our students. It was interesting that at the last board meeting - praise was showered upon the school principals for their dedication and hard work and not once were teachers mentioned. Teachers make a school successful - with the guidance and support of strong and dedicated leaders. But apparently, the need for distinguished professionals dedicated to students and their overall well-being is an afterthought. It is my hope that with the three new board members that have joined your team today - change will come. The three were all voted in because their platforms stated they will listen to teachers. That day cannot come soon enough.

Sincerely,

Patrick S. McAndrew

Board Member Comments, CLAIM Committee has an event that is upcoming on April 28, 2021. It's the annual legislator's forum. The panelists include Senate President Harmon, Senator Kimberly Lightford, Representative Camille Lilly, and Representative La Shawn Ford. We hope you can join us.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

CONCLUDING ITEMS

AGENDA MAINTENANCE

The draft agenda for the May 11, 2021 meeting was reviewed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

	Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees C)(1), Probable Litigation 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1), at 8:22 p.m.
Ayes: Nays: Absent: Motion passed	Kim, Kearney, Moore, Spurlock, Duffy, Ross-Dribin, Hurd-Johnson
•	ENT seconded by Moore that the meeting be adjourned. There being no further business to President Kim declared the meeting adjourned at 911p.m.
Board Presiden	t Board Secretary

Duffy moved, seconded by Moore that the Board move into executive session for the purpose of