

**Official Minutes of the  
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,  
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois  
Special Meeting August 6, 2013**

President Spatz called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Sacks Spatz, Gates, Traczyk, O'Connor and Brisben  
Absent: Felton  
Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Al Roberts, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Therese O'Neill, Director of Policy, Planning and Communications Chris Jasculca, Director of Special Education Mike Padavic, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Sacks moved, seconded by Traczyk, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 6:30 p.m. to discuss (Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), Collective Negotiations, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)). Roll call vote.

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

Ayes: Sacks, Traczyk, Brisben, Gates, O'Connor and Spatz  
Nays: None  
Absent: Felton  
Motion passed.

**OPEN SESSION**

Sacks moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education move into open session at 7:01 p.m. All members of the Board in attendance were in agreement.

OPEN SESSION

The meeting was reconvened at 7:03 p.m.

**SPECIAL REPORTS**

**1:1 TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE**

Lisa Schwartz, Harla Hutchinson and Julie Mullen came to the table. Schwartz reported that the five-year technology plan has several goals that focus on the 1:1 initiative. She noted that since the creation of the plan, technology has become more affordable, allowing the district to move forward with this initiative more cost efficiently. Preparations for this initiative have been occurring and include bandwidth expansion, improved wireless coverage and a mobile device management system. Additionally, teachers have received iPads and MacBook Air laptops and an investment has been made in Apple professional development. The addition of technology/data coaches in each school also supports this initiative.

SPECIAL  
REPORTS

The phased roll-out timeline was shared. Schwartz noted that the fifth graders will be the first to receive the iPad minis. During Phase I, the iPad minis will be stored at the school. Before students are allowed to take the devices home, a mandatory parent training will occur.

The training will include a presentation on the goals and philosophy of iLearn97. A student and parent home use agreement will be shared and signed; coaches, classroom, and special area teachers will talk about how iPad minis will be used. The acceptable use policy will be explained and safety and insurance will be discussed.

### 1:1 TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE (Continued)

Schwartz, Hutchinson and Mullen will report back to the Board on November 5, 2013 to share an update on the progress of Phase I. An evaluation of the effectiveness of the device will be shared at that time. They will report on device usage, student experiences, teacher lessons, feedback and the recommendations for Phase II.

Phase II will begin in December, 2013 with iPad minis being distributed to the fourth grade classrooms, followed by the third grade classrooms in January, 2013.

Schwartz, Hutchinson and Mullen will report back to the Board at the end of the school year, to update the Board on the progress at that time.

Schwartz noted the importance of communication with the staff, parents and the community. Additionally, she recommended that the district reach out to the Police Department, the Public Library and the Chamber of Commerce.

She reported that a comprehensive district-wide professional development plan has been created, which includes collaboration among principals, teachers and technology/data coaches. They will set common planning times, teacher “boot camps”, and develop lesson plans, activities and materials focused on Common Core.

Hutchinson reported that faculty will meet during common planning time and individually, coaches regularly will visit the classrooms, classroom management techniques will be explored, weekly debriefings will occur and regular coach collaboration meetings will take place.

The team noted that a device in the hands of every student does not mean students are in the front of their screens all day long. Students will continue to participate in many traditional classroom activities. Technology will be used when it enhances the lesson, when it saves time, and when its use motivates the students. Technology will be used to modify and redefine learning activities; focus on creativity, communication collaboration and critical thinking. Technology will be used to personalize learning, create efficiencies and support the goals of the Common Core.

The 1:1 devices are expected to impact the student achievement by increasing the depth of research and improve writing skills. They will encourage problem solving abilities, more effective collaboration, and in-depth literary response and analysis. Additionally, the technology will support science education performance and higher achievement scores in math and reading.

Mullen noted that this initiative will free up the shared devices, increasing access to the other grade levels. She reported on the expenses for the roll-out. She noted that most of the cost will be paid from the referendum vision and the additional cost will come from the technology plan budget. An overview of funding for current technology initiatives for the past year was shared.

It was noted that an annual technology fee would be charged to the families to cover loss or repair of the devices. The amount would be supplemented for students who qualify for free and reduced lunch.

Mullen noted that the PARCC restriction to a 9.5 inch screen is expected to change, allowing the iPad minis to be an acceptable device for testing. She noted that whether or not the change occurs, the schools have enough devices to cover the requirements for testing.

Schwartz reported that the next steps include the Board confirming the direction before the first purchase is made, and the policy committee will need to review related policies.

## 1:1 TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE (Continued)

Dr. Roberts noted that this plan takes into consideration the needs of all students and faculty. This is an opportunity to make progress with all the staff, addressing common core and making students agents of their own learning.

The Board participated in a lengthy discussion, during which, the following comments and concerns were shared:

Schwartz noted that a bring your own technology (BYOT) option had been considered. However, it was noted that this option does not allow the students the opportunity to use similar devices and would be extremely difficult for the faculty and staff to support.

The Board was reminded that the referendum was passed partially to support technology. It was noted that fees have not been increased in at least five years. Excitement was expressed for the initiative and the opportunity to transform instruction.

Schwartz reported that security measures for the devices will be put in place and explained how lost devices will basically be useless. The importance of making the community aware of all security measures was expressed.

Interest was expressed in studies and data that identify the value of these devices and a cost analysis.

Concern was expressed over the timing of the roll-out, questioning if faculty will be prepared. The need to identify what information will be shared with the parents was expressed. Concern was expressed over the homes that do not have internet access and possible policy changes or language within the policies that may need to be revised to support the initiative.

Concern was expressed about the ongoing cost of the initiative. Schwartz noted that there will be less need for paper and textbooks. She shared that math will look very different next year, as textbooks will not be used as often.

Several quotes were shared from the district audit. Concern was expressed that the district would consider moving forward with technology purchases before dealing with the concerns expressed in the audit. Schwartz noted that some of the changes identified in the audit have already begun and may occur at the same time as the 1:1 initiative. Dr. Roberts reminded the Board that the audit made it clear that District 97 is a really good school district, but it could get better. The report identified specific problems in an effort to move the district to a more uniformed system. Dr. Roberts reminded the Board that the district cannot delay on school reform. Real student engagement equals learning.

Concern was expressed regarding the lack of internet access at home. Schwartz noted that the iPad minis will include a larger memory so children will be able to download what they need before going home, allowing them to work without the Internet when necessary.

President Spatz read a statement from Member Felton who was not in attendance. It was reported that she supports the district's 1:1 initiative and noted the importance of having technology available.

President Spatz asked the Board for direction. All agreed that this item should return to the Board for consideration on August 20, 2013. Interest was expressed in feedback on an approved parent communication plan. Dr. Roberts charged the team to work on the parent connection and send a report to the Board prior to the August 20, 2013 meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**ACTION ITEMS****2.1.1 Approval of Minutes from the July 9, 2013 meeting**

ACTION ITEM,S

Traczyk moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the revised minutes from the July 9, 2013 meeting. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Felton

Motion passed.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

President Spatz read the items on the consent agenda. O'Connor moved, seconded by Sacks, that the following items be approved on the consent agenda. Roll call vote.

2.2.1 Bill Lists and Related Reports

2.3.1 Personnel Action

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

Nays: None

Absent: Felton

Motion passed.

**2.3.2 Appointment of Director of Human Resources**

Sacks moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the appointment of Stephen Cummins to Director of Human Resources effective July 29, 2013 at a salary of \$125,000.

Dr. Roberts introduced Steve Cummins as the administrations choice for Director of Human Resources. Dr. Roberts explained that Cummins comes with a wealth of knowledge in HR at both the high school and elementary levels. Cummins shared that he is excited to join the District 97 leadership team. Roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Felton

Motion passed.

**2.4.1 Resolution and Declaration of Official Intent to Lease 500 MacBook Air Laptops**

Gates moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the formal attached resolution and declaration of intent specific to the lease associated with the 500 MacBook Air laptops authorized at the May 28, 2013 Board meeting and outlined in the memorandum to the Board dated August 6, 2013.

O'Neill reported that this item was approved on May 28, 2013, however, a resolution with additional wording was required. Roll call vote,

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

Nays: None

Absent: Felton

Motion passed.

## **TOPIC REPORTS**

### **REVIEW OF PROPOSED 457(B) PLAN**

Therese O'Neill came to the table. She introduced the 457(b) plan proposal that would give employees an additional option for saving money for retirement. She reported that the district currently has an agreement for a facilitator for the plan. Additionally, she reported that offering this option to employees will come at no cost to the district. This item will return to the Board for approval on August 20, 2013.

### **DISCUSSION ON NEED FOR A TRI-BOARD MEETING ON NOVEMBER 20, 2013 IN SUPPORT OF THE COLLABORATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVE**

President Spatz reminded the Board that the approved Intergovernmental Agreement for support of the Collaboration for Early Childhood calls for a once a year tri-board meeting to be held in November. The purpose of this meeting would be for the collaboration to report on its activities. It was reported that a governing Board meeting will be held on September 25, 2013 at the District 97 administration building. The agenda for the November 20, 2013 will be discussed at that time.

This item will return for approval during the August 20, 2013 meeting.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Roberts reported that the architects will be able to cut the cost of the district facility study. They are in possession of the building floor plans and will give consideration to how the rooms will be used. As directed by the Board of Education, Dr. Roberts will request a review of the administration building. It was noted that a walk through identifying needed repairs was done over five years ago.

The ECRA Group will be meeting with administrators on August 28, 2013. Dr. Roberts invited a representative from the Board to attend this meeting.

Dr. Roberts met with Therese O'Neill and Jan Arnold to review the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Park District. Dr. Roberts noticed that there are two official meetings identified within the IGA that have not occurred. He asked the Board to identify anything else they may notice that may need to be questioned and send their comments to Member Sacks. It was noted that Members Sacks and Traczyk were charged with this task.

The New Teacher Orientation is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on August 19, 2013 at Julian Middle School. It was noted that fifty new staff members were hired. The Board was invited to attend this event.

On August 22, 2013, the staff will gather for a school year kickoff. This year the event will be broken into two sessions. At 8:30 a.m., the Julian staff and their partner school's staff will meet at Julian. At 9:15 a.m., the Brooks staff and their partner school's staff will meet at Brooks. The Board members were invited to these events as well.

Dr. Roberts reported that he has been visiting the schoolyard construction projects regularly and noted that they are on time and on budget. He noted that all are looking great and there have only been a few change orders submitted. He specifically commented on the progress at Irving. It was noted that Chris Jasculca will coordinate events to celebrate the completion of each field.

## **BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Board members were asked to submit their timeline recommendations to Member Brisben by the end of this week. It was noted that the timeline for the superintendent's evaluation process has been completed and shared with the Board. The Board was asked to complete a questionnaire on the current superintendent's evaluation tool and return it to Vice President Gates within a week.

BOARD CONCERNS  
/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

**BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS** (Continued)

President Spatz met with the Village leadership today about the Madison Street properties. He reported that a team will meet in the next couple weeks to keep the process moving forward.

It was reported that Felicia Starks Turner and a few kindergarten teachers will be presenting at the state Illinois KIDS Reporting Committee that President Spatz sits on.

Appreciation was expressed for the Harvard iBook data.

Interest was expressed in knowing that the district may be partnering with John Sapphire.

Interest was expressed in a future discussion on the 5essentials data and how it will be shared with parents.

It was noted that less than one percent of school districts ever perform a district audit. The district was commended for this effort.

**RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

**PREVIEW AGENDA FOR THE AUGUST 20, 2013 MEETING**

The draft agenda for the August 20, 2013 meetings was shared. It was noted that the special education report will be pushed back to September in order to allow time for the initiatives conversation identified during the June 22, 2013 Board retreat.

PREVIEW AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, President Spatz declared the meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, August 20, 2013 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Administration building located at 970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois.

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Board President

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Board Secretary