

**Official Minutes of the  
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,  
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois  
Meeting September 27, 2012**

President Barber called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Present: Barber, Gates, Felton, Sacks, Traczyk (6:33 p.m.), and Spatz  
Absent: O'Connor  
Also Present: Assistant Superintendent of HR and General Counsel Joanne Schochat, 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**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Gates moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 6:32 p.m. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Felton, Sacks, Traczyk, Barber, and Spatz  
Nays: None  
Absent: O'Connor

Motion passed.

Also Present: Attorney Mike Loizzi, Sheryl Marinier (Secretary)

OPEN SESSION

**OPEN SESSION**

Traczyk moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education move into open session at 7:07 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

**PUBLIC HEARING** – 2012-13 Budget

PUBLIC HEARING  
– 2012-2013  
BUDGET

Therese O'Neill came to the table. She explained the timeline for the budget approval process, and ensured the Board that all legal steps have been followed. She noted that last Monday, the General State Aid was changed to include an additional \$376,000 for the district. The budget that the Board will be approving this evening reflects that change.

The audience was invited to speak on the budget but nobody came forward to give public comment.

**SPECIAL REPORTS**

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**P.I.N.G. PRESENTATION**

Susan Parks came to the table. She explained that the P.I.N.G. program was initiated 15 years ago by a group of parent volunteers. The organization is now an 18 member volunteer board that supports approximately 150 students from fourth through twelfth grades. Parks noted that the main purpose of the group is to loan band and orchestra instruments to children, provide music enrichment opportunities throughout the year, and supply middle school mentoring where high school musicians provide instruction every two weeks with an average of 950+ volunteer hours per year. The program offers scholarships for private lessons and summer enrichment opportunities.

Recent innovations and accomplishments include the recruitment of professional musicians who volunteer to teach the high school students, rhythm focus in fall and spring enrichment

**P.I.N.G. PRESENTATION (Continued)**

workshops, increased summer camp enrichment opportunities, and increased training and support for the mentors. Parks reported that P.I.N.G. will receive recognition from the Illinois Music Education Association (IMEA) at the January, 2013 conference, where they will also present a workshop on how to replicate the P.I.N.G. model.

Goals for the future include never turning a student in need away, helping P.I.N.G. students reach their full potential, increasing their capacity, collaborating with others and being a healthy, sustainable organization so they are here for future students.

Kamille Brashear, a senior at Oak Park River Forest High School, expressed her gratitude for the P.I.N.G. program. She shared that because P.I.N.G. introduced her to the gift of music, she plans on minoring in music when she goes to college. Kamille won scholarships through P.I.N.G. and was able to attend the University of Wisconsin summer program.

Member Sacks shared how successful the group is with only volunteer support.

**REVIEW DRAFT FY12 AUDIT**

O’Neill came to the table with McGladrey and Pullen representatives Brian Guastella and David Paul. Guastella express thanks to O’Neill and the Business Office staff, and reported on a very smooth audit. Guastella explained that the single audit is required because the district receives and spends over \$500,000 of federal money. The state, therefore, is required to audit the district. He noted that all the findings from last year’s audit were resolved with the exception of the Child Nutrition Cluster Reporting. It was reported that the finding was for \$256 and consisted of a transition error from the district’s books to the state report. O’Neill reported that a plan to correct this error will be put into place.

The final report will come to the October 16 meeting for approval and filed on October 17 or 18 after an extension is requested.

O’Neill noted that Marcy Shannon managed this year’s audit and did an outstanding job.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Sinead Aylwasd, an Oak Park resident, expressed support for the funding of the Collaboration for Early Childhood. She suggested that the district consider extending their support to the self contained programs as well. She shared that her daughter attended Holmes School with only three children in the classroom. She recommended that the district find a way to adjust the self contained classrooms allowing students to spend time with typical peers. She reminded them that an environment where children are surrounded by typical peers, raises the bar.

**ACTION ITEMS**

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**2.1.1 Approval of Minutes of September 11, 2012**

Gates moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the minutes from the September 11, 2012 meeting as revised. Roll call vote.

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

**2.2.1 Approval of Consent Agenda**

President Barber read the items on the consent agenda. Sacks moved, seconded by Traczyk to accept the consent agenda.

2.3.1 Bill Lists and Related Reports

2.2.1 Personnel Action as revised

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Sacks, Traczyk, Felton, Spatz, Gates, and Barber

Nays: None

Absent: O'Connor

Motion passed.

**2.2.2 Approval of Superintendent's Contract**

Barber moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the superintendent's contract for the period July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2016 subject to the Board's attorney preparing an official copy for signature by the president and secretary, who are hereby authorized to sign at that time.

Ayes: Barber, Spatz, Gates, Traczyk, Felton, and Sacks

Nays: None

Absent: O'Connor

Motion passed.

It was noted that the new contract will supersede the current one that was intended to go thru 2013. President Barber shared that Dr. Roberts is an outstanding superintendent and the district was fortunate to find him and keep him.

**2.3.2 Adoption of 2012-13 Budget**

Traczyk moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, adopt its 2012-13 budget in the total amount of \$83,716,903 as delineated in the memorandum to the superintendent dated September 27, 2012. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Traczyk, Felton, Sacks, Gates, Barber, and Spatz

Nays: None

Absent: O'Connor

Motion passed.

**2.3.3 Resolution of Intent to Issue not to exceed \$3,700,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds**

Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the resolution of intent to avail of the provisions of Article 20 of the School Code of the State of Illinois, as amended, and to issue \$3.7M Working Cash Fund Bonds of School District Number 97, Cook County, Illinois and directing that notice of such intention be published in the manner provided by law. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Traczyk, Sacks, Gates, Spatz, Barber, and Felton

Nays: None

Absent: O'Connor

Motion passed.

#### **2.4.1 Acceptance of Donations**

Gates moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the donation of a Smartboard to be used at Irving School, from Mariel Race, co-founder of the Terri Race Educational Technology Fund in honor of her late mother, Terri Race. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Felton, Sacks, Traczyk, Barber, and Spatz

Nays: None

Absent: O'Connor

Motion passed.

#### **2.4.2 Field Trip Approval - Brooks**

Felton moved, seconded by Traczyk, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the out-of-state field trip for the eighth graders at Brooks Middle School to visit Washington, DC from October 6, 2012 – October 8, 2012. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Felton, Traczyk, Gates, Sacks, Barber, and Spatz

Nays: None

Absent: O'Connor

Motion passed.

#### **2.4.3 Acceptance of Response to NCLB Requests**

Sacks moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education, District 97, agree to not engage in any intergovernmental agreements with neighboring school districts that did not reach the average yearly progress goal outlined in the No Child Left Behind Act. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Sacks, Spatz, Gates, Traczyk, Felton, and Barber

Nays: None

Absent: O'Connor

Motion passed.

### **TOPIC REPORTS**

TOPIC REPORTS

#### **DONATION – IRVING**

The Irving PTO would like to purchase Elmos for the school. It was noted that this purchase fits into the district's technology plan.

Discussion took place regarding the need to make the PTO Council aware of such purchases in an effort to keep the leadership informed and so similar purchases might be grouped together.

#### **COLLABORATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD – FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

The annual report from the Collaboration for Early Childhood was included in the Board packet. It was reported that the Collaboration is asking for no increase in the district's support. This request will return to the Board for approval during the October 16 meeting.

#### **INTRODUCTION OF NEW FACILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

President Barber reported that three new members will join the Facility Advisory Committee (FAC) on October 11. Bios were shared for Paul May, Dane Rankin and Dirk Danker.

#### **JOINT ADMINISTRATION FACILITY**

It was reported that a community information meeting was held on September 19 and another is planned in late October to share results from traffic studies, usage reports and possibly a financial update. Ongoing meetings will continue between the Park District and the School District.

Interest was expressed in knowing what the Village's plan would be for the properties vacated by the Park District and the School District, and what kind of tax revenue could be expected if those

## **TOPIC REPORTS** (Continued)

properties were developed. Interest was also expressed in seeing space assessments, current and estimated operating costs, updated appraisals of the properties, and the depreciated value of the current property.

Interest was expressed in knowing if the TIF money could be used to its fullest capacity if the administration building was rebuilt or rehabbed at the current location. A presentation on how the TIF money can be used was recommended. A clearer understanding of the TIF, the amount due to the district and how the money can be spent was suggested. Concern was expressed that state aid could be affected based on how the district utilizes the TIF money.

It was noted that FAC and/or FORC could be asked to assist with property redevelopment, space studies, appraisals, understanding the TIF, operating cost estimates, and identifying book value of the current buildings.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION**

Member O'Connor sent a superintendent evaluation tool in his absence for the Board's consideration. Discussion took place regarding the document. Dr. Roberts will work with member O'Connor to add in specific criteria and present the final document for approval on October 16. It was noted that this tool is intended to be used for many years into the future. It was also noted that the superintendent will be required to complete the six standards. The Board will look at the sub points when evaluating the superintendent, but not debate them, and information can be requested from the superintendent as needed to support his goals.

Board questions and concerns included understanding how the Board will know that plans are being implemented, and how they will know that staff is receiving rigorous evaluations. It was suggested that every teacher should have a check list on where they stand on different items identified in their evaluation. Everything the Board identifies as important should be part of the dashboard data.

Member O'Connor was commended for his efforts in preparing the document. This document will be approved at the next meeting. It was noted that the Board typically does a mid-year review in January although it is only required to perform a year-end evaluation. The mid-year evaluation will be a dry run for the new tool.

## **BOARD GOALS**

Member Spatz pointed out a few items that support some of the evaluation concerns. A verification process was recommended for improvement plans. The Board reviewed the documents and some changes were recommended.

It was noted that the goals include 12 measures of success. Member Spatz recommended that the Board members each monitor one or two of them and let the Board President and Superintendent know if the measures appear to not be moving forward. He noted that some of the measures are related to committees, and he requested that each Board member send him a list of three measures that they would be interested in monitoring so he can prepare a list.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

There was no report due the superintendent's absence.

**BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Member Felton reported on the PTO Council meeting. She reported that their mission is to work on collaboration among schools, fundraising and parent involvement. The council is encouraging the PT3 leadership training to help parents become instructors and continue the training at all the schools.

The Fast ForWord event held last Monday with Dr. Martha Burns was well attended and well received.

Member Spatz was in attendance at the meeting where P.I.N.G. was originally recommended 15 years ago. He noted that his son participated in the program and eventually donated his instruments to the program.

Mike Padavic was acknowledged for the success of the Special Olympics Bocce Ball Tournament and Chris Jasculca was thanked for the wonderful article and photographs on the event.

It was announced that Julian Middle School won the Blue Ribbon Award from the Illinois Association for Health, Recreation and Dance. President Barber will be joining them to celebrate on November 15.

The Collaboration for Early Childhood will be hosting Professor James Heckman on November 14 at Unity Temple. This meeting is in an effort to reach out to the community. Everyone was encouraged to reserve that date on their calendar. It was noted that Professor Heckman will be speaking the same weekend as the Triple I Conference and some people attending the conference may be interested in attending this event as well.

**BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT**

In response to public comment, President Barber acknowledged that the Board and district are in strong support of the Collaboration for Early Childhood.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, President Barber declared the meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, October 16, 2012 beginning at 7 p.m. at the administration building located at 970 Madison Street.

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Board President

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Board Secretary