

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97
260 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
January 3, 2020 Meeting**

This was a joint meeting with the Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC)

President Broy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Broy, Spurlock, Liebl, and Kearney (arrived at 7:03 p.m.)
Absent: Breymaier, Moore and Kim
Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Carol Kelley, Director of Communications Amanda Siegfried, Chief Academic and Accountability Officer Eboney Lofton, Senior Director of Technology Michael Arensdorff, Senior Director of Buildings and Grounds Jeanne Keane, Bulley and Andrews representative Peter Kuhn, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier.

Members of the Facilities Advisory Committee in attendance: Chairperson Paul May, Dirk Danker, Dane Rankin, Chris Rockey, Catherine Ward and Darryl Baker.

SY20 SUMMER PROJECTS

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Jeanne Keane came to the table with Peter Kuhn from Bulley and Andrews. Kuhn reported that he updated the bid package status, but some of the items will need to be rebid due to the lack of response.

Kuhn reported that the approved summer construction budget totals \$16,333,960 and is broken down as follows;

Brooks Middle School - \$970,600
Julian Middle School - \$2,134,940
Hatch Elementary - \$3,832,060
Irving Elementary - \$4,496,275
Mann Elementary - \$4,900,085

Additionally, Kuhn shared highlights of the work planned for each school.

Brooks Middle School

- Repair temperature control system
- Replace Intercom/PA system in accordance with D97 safety and security requests

Julian Middle School

- Replace Asphalt parking lot at Ridgeland Avenue
- Replace roofing over cafeteria, stage, auditorium, and gymnasium
- Repair temperature control system
- Replace intercom/PA system in accordance with D97 safety and security requests

Hatch Elementary School

- Replace damaged doors and door hardware
- Replace emergency lighting
- Replace switchgear (water damaged equipment)
- Replace third floor unit ventilators (will provide heating and cooling)
- Renovate Media Center to Library Learning Commons
- Provide a STEAM Lab
- Relocate LAS office to first floor
- Provide wheelchair lift to stage level
- Renovate one toilet room per gender per floor to meet ADA requirements

Irving Elementary School

- Replace damaged doors and door hardware
- Masonry repairs at exterior walls
- Replace emergency lighting
- Provide new exhaust fans
- Provide plumbing upgrades to meet current code requirements
- Replace third floor unit ventilators (will provide heating and cooling)
- Renovate Media Center to Library Learning Commons
- Provide a STEAM Lab
- Convert storage rooms on first floor to office space

Mann Elementary School

- Replace damaged doors and door hardware
- Replace emergency lighting and exit signage
- Provide plumbing upgrades to meet current code requirements
- Replace third floor unit ventilators (will provide heating and cooling)
- Renovate Media Center to Library Learning Commons
- Provide a STEAM Lab
- Convert locker room space on first floor to instructional space
- Provide wheelchair lift to stage level
- Renovate one toilet room per gender per floor to meet ADA requirements
- Provide Area of Rescue Assistance at stairwells

Kuhn noted that there were three alternate bids. He explained that alternates one and two were accepted for equipment, and alternate three for the air unit for the Hatch Elementary School gymnasium. He noted that the HVAC work received four bids, but some of the trades only received one bid. Those with only one will be rebid. Keane told the Board that an alternate would not be accepted for the intercoms.

Kuhn reported that the projects are coming in under budget and that includes a \$1,000,000 contingency. A list of budgeted amounts and actual amounts for each trade were shared, noting that if only one bid was received, the budgeted amount was entered on the list. Keane reported that if the projects come in under budget, the remaining funds will be put toward the next group of projects.

A motion was made by a Facilities Advisory committee member that recommended that the Board of Education approve the Summer 2020 bid package excluding membrane roofing, glazing and gypsum board assembly, which will be re-bid. The motion was seconded by another committee member and carried.

Mann Elementary School (Continued)

The committee agreed to review the outstanding bids via email to expedite the process.

A motion was made by a Facilities Advisory committee member to approve the minutes from its meeting on December 16, 2019. The motion was seconded by another committee member and carried.

The Facilities Advisory committee adjourned at 7:32 p.m., and the members of the committee left the boardroom.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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Anna Nieto, an Elementary Spanish teacher for six years, suggested that the construction projects present an opportunity to address needed space for the FLES (Spanish) program. She told the Board that the FLES curriculum supports the district's vision, but the lack of space for the program directly affects the students' outcomes, and teacher's performance. She told the Board that in the schools without Spanish classrooms, students lose approximately 5-10 minutes of learning per week (up to 16 percent per week), which comes to about 200 minutes a year of total lost instructional time.

Nieto told the Board that students without an instructional space for language do not have visuals, or "environmental print" in Spanish to support their comprehension, and writing and speaking skills, which could undermine their confidence and risk taking, vital for increasing proficiency and truly acquiring the language. Additionally, she explained that traveling between classrooms presents an added challenge for the teachers to give their students consistent energy and materials. Even the National Board Certified teachers on the team, find their instruction suffers in this environment.

She noted that Irving currently has no dedicated instructional spaces for Spanish, which impacts all 498 students in the school. At Mann, one Spanish classroom is insufficient to service all of the school, so 139 students do not have Spanish instruction in a dedicated space. She told the Board that FLES classroom space in other schools is limited or precarious, and if an additional teacher travels to that school, there is usually no room.

Nieto urged the Board to evaluate future renovation plans through the lens of the language teacher and learner to ensure that students have access to a strong and equitable language learning curriculum and environment that allows for true language acquisition and cultural connection. Dr. Kelley explained the difference between permanent classrooms and those without classrooms.

Silvia Zaragoza, Irving School Spanish teacher for 13 years, supported Nieto's request. She told the Board that according to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), "effective language instruction must provide significant levels of meaningful communication and interactive feedback in the target language in order for students to develop language and cultural proficiency." ACTFL recommends that "language educators and their students use the target language as exclusively as possible (90 percent) at all levels of instruction during instructional time".

She told the Board that Irving has an extensive Spanish library of books that are culturally relevant and developmentally appropriate, but the students do not have the kind of access to them that students in other schools might have because the books are housed in the Spanish office, not in a classroom.

Zaragoza told the Board that the original renovation plans at Lincoln, Longfellow and Holmes did not address the need for Spanish classrooms, and were only addressed after it was brought to their attention. She noted that the Irving renovation plan does not address the need for a Spanish classroom, so she is bringing it to the Board's attention.

PUBLIC COMMENT – (Continued)

She told the Board that a dedicated language learning space is essential for the strongest teaching and student outcomes and needs to be respected. She suggested that any renovation plans should consider the importance of creating the necessary spaces for student learning in all core areas.

Zaragoza told the Board that she is also here this evening to advocate for her culturally diverse students and their families. She wants them to feel like they belong in this culturally diverse community. They need to be able to “be” themselves and see themselves represented and appreciated.

Dr. Kelley was asked to follow up regarding these requests. Keane suggested that there may be a creative solution at Irving School, and told the Board that there is a new classroom at Beye School, but she is not sure of the plans for that room.

Dr. Kelley explained that there are other teachers who do not have a classroom (art, music, etc.). The decision on who will be a “traveling teacher” is based on the number of students at a particular grade level. She told the Board that some teachers even teach in more than one school. Once the principal works out the schedule, locations are considered.

One member of the audience noted that Irving has a traveling art teacher and music teacher, but there is still a designated classroom for them, but there is no designated Spanish classroom.

It was noted that even with the new Lincoln addition there will be no classroom for Spanish.

Margaret Garcia, a Physical Education teacher at Mann School for 18 years, asked for improvements to the ventilation system in the Mann School gym. She explained that the gym has two large uninsulated walls with south and west exposure, and 2,400 square feet of poorly insulated roof. She suggested that a space that large would generate a massive amount of radiant heat that is trapped indoors and has no way to be removed, as there are no windows in the space. She explained that the air is circulated by air handlers that were evaluated by an internal Air Conditioning Study for all district buildings in 2013, and found to be in poor condition and about 25 years old.

Garcia asked for reliable, effective ventilation in the gym that would provide effective control of indoor air quality in the summer months.

Keane explained that the air handler in the Mann School gym is being repaired, and noted that this project is not included in the summer projects. She also has a mechanical contractor looking into options for the space.

Sheila Daugherty, Co-president of the Mann School PTO shared her excitement about the upgrades planned for the school, but shared her concern about the very slow chairlift that students and parents in wheelchairs are required to use to access the second floor. She suggested that the chairlift takes away learning time for these students, and asked the Board to consider a better solution.

ADJOURNMENT

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There being no further business to conduct, President Broy declared the meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary