

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
April 12, 2011**

President Traczyk called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Present: Barber, Clouser, Reddy, Gates, Harton (6:39), and Traczyk
Absent: Spatz
Also Present: Superintendent Al Roberts, Human Resources Director Trish Carlson, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations Therese O'Neill, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Kevin Anderson, Director of Special Education Mike Padavic, Communications Coordinator Chris Jасulca, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Reddy moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 6:34 p.m. Roll call vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ayes: Reddy, Gates, Barber, Clouser, and Traczyk
Nays: None
Absent: Spatz, Harton
Motion passed.

OPEN SESSION

Gates moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education move into open session at 7:12 p.m. Roll call vote.

OPEN SESSION

Ayes: Gates, Reddy, Clouser, Harton, Barber, and Traczyk
Nays: None
Absent: Spatz
Motion passed.

SPECIAL REPORTS

SCOTY Awards

Staff members introduced eight students who received the School Citizen Of The Year (SCOTY) Award from the WEST40 Intermediate Service Center. This recognition is awarded to students for exemplary behavior.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Recognized were Grace Ciacciarelli (Mann), Sophia Cosman (Irving), Jaden Himmel (Lincoln), Amaria Brewer (Longfellow), Joseph Cofsky (Julian), Liam Loughran (Whittier), Bethany Luther (Hatch) and Jocelyn Weisman (Brooks) who was not in attendance.

Digital Leadership Presentation

Kevin Anderson introduced Cheryl Sullivan, Sandra Flowers, and Susan Oxnevad, who shared how they are supporting the teachers in third, fourth and fifth grades. Sample technology was demonstrated and shared. It was reported that math podcasts and stem activities are in the planning.

After discussion, it was reported that a technology update is scheduled to be presented to the PTO Council during their April 25 meeting. Interest was expressed in hearing if the technology tools will be available for all curriculum. Anderson reported that the next technology update will be on assisted technology and presented by Sheri Lenzo.

Referendum Response

President Traczyk thanked the community for their support. He reported that staff will officially be rehired during the April 26 meeting. Traczyk reported that a Board retreat is in the planning for May or June. He thanked the citizens committee, including Jassen Strokosch, Carolina Song, Laura Crawford and everyone who participated in the process.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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Noel Kuriakos, Oak Park resident, asked the following questions.

- After two rounds of MAP testing, what is the expectation of how many schools might pass or fail AYP?
- Using those same scores, what is the process for placing students in GTD or supporting those who need additional help. What kind of intervention/enrichment are they getting? What is that process and when will that happen versus having the MAP score next year?
- Is there a plan to put the Board of Education meetings live on the Internet so people do not need to be in attendance?
- Is there a plan to post the sign-up sheet for public comment during Board meetings online?
- When is the 2011-12 budget finalized? Will that be based on a zero based budget process?
- What specific criteria and measures are being used for the Superintendent's Evaluation and when will that be made public?
- When are we expecting all the teachers to put their lesson plans in an electronic format, not just a paper copy posted on the Web, and posted online so parents can access the updated plans?
- How will MAP scores be used to update those lesson plans?

John Michelotti, Oak Park resident, extended his congratulations on the passing of the referendum. He expressed his concern regarding the School/Classroom Visits policy, noting that he felt that the policy does not adhere to the law. He explained that his interpretation of the policy does not give ample access to classrooms for students with IEPs and asked the Board to consider stronger language in the policy.

President Traczyk apologized to Mrs. Kelly for not getting back to her after the last meeting and suggested that they will continue their discussion in the near future.

ACTION ITEMS

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2.1.1 Approval of Minutes of March 22, 2011

Clouser moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the special March 22, 2011 meeting with revisions.

Member Harton requested that additional information be added to the minutes regarding the Board's response about academic achievement.

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Clouser, Reddy, Harton, Barber, Gates, and Traczyk

Nays: None

Absent: Spatz

Motion passed.

2.2.1 Consent Agenda

Hartton moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the consent agenda as presented in the Board packet.

- 2.2.1 Bill Lists and Related Reports
- 2.3.1 Personnel Action as presented

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Hartton, Reddy, Gates, Clouser, Barber, and Traczyk

Nays: None

Absent: Spatz

Motion passed.

2.4.1 Acceptance of Donation - Brooks

Barber moved, seconded by Hartton, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the donation of a Lyon and Healy 40 string Prelude Lever Harp with cover, folding harp bench and accessories, and a Hohner Acoustic Steel String Guitar with accessories from William and Jan Kroeschell. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Barber, Hartton, Reddy, Clouser, Gates, and Traczyk

Nays: None

Absent: Spatz

Motion passed.

2.4.2 Acceptance of Donation – Multicultural Department

Clouser moved, seconded by Barber, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the donation of nine dresses from Mr. Raoul Chavarria and Ms. Ana Martinez for use in the Multicultural Department. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Clouser, Barber, Gates, Reddy, Hartton, and Traczyk

Nays: None

Absent: Spatz

Motion passed.

2.4.3 Acceptance of Donation – Central Office

Gates moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the donation of a Promethean ActivBoard378 to District 97 for use in the Central Office training lab from Dr. Kevin Anderson. The interactive whiteboard was received by Dr. Anderson as a prize associated with the 2010 National Leader of the Year Award he received in December. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Reddy, Hartton, Clouser, Barber, and Traczyk

Nays: None

Absent: Spatz

Motion passed.

2.4.4 Policy Adoption

Reddy moved, seconded by Barber, that the Board of Education, District 97, adopt policy 9150 (School/Classroom Visits).

It was reported that the committee reworked the policy based on the comments they received from the community. They worked diligently to strike a balance regarding the concerns. Member Clouser shared some of them and explained the committee's reasoning. He explained that the law always trumps policy. The 40-minute guideline for classroom visits was discussed and it was reported that exceptions are identified in the policy and the public act. It was reported

Policy Adoption – (Continued)

that although principals will not be personally approving every request for visitation, principals will be made aware of such visits. It was reported that this policy was reviewed by the Special Education Advisory Committee. Concerns expressed by this committee related to compliance, not the wording of the policy.

Discussion took place regarding special education requirements and the need for guests to feel welcome while keeping children safe. The importance of the principal being aware of who is in the building was discussed as well as the need to not disrupt the students’ learning.

Board suggestions included a district-wide forum that focuses on visitation. A log of all denied visitation requests was suggested to be kept in the district office. The need for a district standard was expressed. Jasculca was asked to include an explanation of the policy in a weekly update to the community as well as post the explanation on the policy Web page. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Reddy, Barber, Gates, Harton, Clouser, and Traczyk
Nays: None
Absent: Spatz
Motion passed.

2.4.5 Approval of Settlement Agreement

Barber moved, seconded by Reddy, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the Settlement Agreement as presented. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Barber, Reddy, Harton, Clouser, Gates, and Traczyk
Nays: None
Absent: Spatz
Motion passed.

TOPIC REPORTS

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EVALUATION OF BOARD GOALS

President Traczyk updated the Board on the status of the 2010-11 Board goals by reporting that the goals were to hire a new superintendent and pass a referendum. Additionally, Traczyk reported that Board study sessions have been successful, and the Communication Committee is up and running. During the year, the Board explored the Legislative Advocacy Committee, which is pending the seating of the new Board.

Members noted that these goals were the most challenging. One member reported that he was pleased with the discussions regarding academics and proud that the Board has been able to find balance between academics and discussions on finance.

CUSTODIAL SUPPLY BID

O’Neill explained the process for approval of the Custodial Supply bid. She reported that this year’s bid dropped 18 percent, noting good management, a competitive market and buying competitively for the decrease in the expense.

ASBESTOS ABATEMENT BID

O’Neill reported that the district worked with Environ for the last two years. A bid from Carnow, Conibear & Associates came in lower this year. After a successful reference check, O’Neill reported that the adoption of the bid will be brought forward during the April 26 meeting awarding the bid to Carnow, Conibear & Associates.

POLICIES

Chris Jasculca came to the table. He explained that Neola sends updates several times a year. Some policies take more time to review than others and will come to the Board at a later time.

Discussion took place and several changes were suggested. Additionally, discussion took place regarding the Genetic Information Act and how it affects numerous policies.

These items will return to the Board for approval on April 26.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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Isabella Reish, a third grade student at Longfellow School, entered a poem she wrote in the 2011 *Midwest Regional Young Writers of America Student Poetry Contest*. Her poem entitled "What My Family Means to Me" has been selected to be published in the annual student anthology *Award-Winning Young Writers of America -2011*.

The Gwendolyn Brooks Math Team recently completed its season, which included participation in three major competitions: the state MATHCOUNTS competition, the Math Olympiad hosted by McClure Junior High and The Middle School Math Contest hosted by the Latin School of Chicago. Eighth grade student Collin Pearce qualified for the MATHCOUNTS state competition, which was held in March. At the Math Olympiad, the school's sixth grade team placed first overall, with students Kevin Obrecht and Deepu Ganesan capturing second and third place respectively, while the eighth grade team earned third place in the seventh/eighth grade competition. The teachers who coached the team were Julie King and Stacie Klein.

Several members of the District 97 community have been nominated for awards in conjunction with the Illinois State Board of Education's "Those Who Excel" educator recognition program, including:

- Ashley Kannan, teacher at Julian
- Tywone Smith, teacher assistant at Holmes
- Mary Beth Hausken, parent volunteer who helped plan/organize the Vex Robotics competition
- The District 97 Board of Education

Winners will be announced this fall. Awardees will be honored at a banquet on October 22.

Irving is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. The school will mark this milestone with an event on Friday, April 15 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. that will include building tours, a student art showcase, a chorus performance and a Taste of Irving.

Administration has begun to review the strategic plan. They are looking to streamline the process, build additional clarity and help the district move from a checklist mentality to strategic thinking. They will bring their recommendations to the Board during one of the May meetings.

The district residency reverification is in progress and most of the calls coming into the district office on this topic are supportive of the process.

Dr. Roberts met with the police department regarding the district's crossing guard needs for next year. He shared that the officer he met with indicated that a second supervisor may be necessary to ensure that all routes and corners are covered. No commitment was made, as the rate for next year has not been established.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – (Continued)

Dr. Roberts received several requests for end of year and out of state field trips. He reported that he has made his direction clear to the staff that field trips are only permissible if they have educational value. He explained that field trips and videos should not be used as a celebration and must meet his expectations.

The Lincoln PTO donation request to purchase computer equipment for their school will be moving forward.

BOARD CONCERNS

BOARD
CONCERNS

It was suggested that an End Of Year Career Day would be a great idea. Interest was expressed on knowing if there would be oversight on the presenter's content, noting that there was a recent stir in Virginia over a plastic surgery presentation during a career day.

Member Gates reminded the other members that he sent them his notes/PowerPoint from the recent ED-RED meeting.

It was reported that the fifth grade parent/student drug and alcohol awareness program held on April 11 at Julian was well attended.

Thanks was extended to Ms. Farmer at Longfellow for allowing Member Gates to read Sylvester and the Magic Pebble to her PKP class honoring the **Week of the Young Child**. Member Harton read to the students as well and was excited about the experience.

Member Gates reported that he and Dr. Roberts will look forward to the individual Board members' responses to Gates' suggestion for an achievement category on the home page of the district's Web site.

The Special Education Advisory meeting was held yesterday. Merle Siefken from ISBE was in attendance and great discussion took place. Siefken spoke positively about committee members, achievement and the importance of raising the bar. The committee is working on a PT3 initiative that is now in each building.

The Board members were asked to keep May 31 and June 11 open as possible retreat dates.

Member Harton suggested that the Board use part of the retreat to look at the function of the Board minutes and give the Board secretary clear direction as to their expectations. Harton shared that the minutes should be a reflection of the meeting for the constituents and community and should always include the Board's response.

Member Harton noted that regarding the ombudsman position, her concern is not in hiring additional staff for this position, but that members of the community know how to navigate the district. She challenged the district to create and provide information that unravels these issues, and share this valuable gift with the community and families. It was noted that this topic was part of the Special Education Advisory discussion. Members of that committee suggested that the Board include a number of constituents in the creation of this position.

Excitement was expressed over the inclusion of technology in STEM, engineering, science and mathematics. An update on the science curriculum was requested, specifically how it parallels the high school curriculum.

Board members were encouraged to attend the Taste of Irving.

The Board was reminded that a policy will be needed for the Face-It program.

BOARD CONCERNS – (Continued)

The 20th annual choral festival will be held tomorrow at the high school.

Member Spatz will be suggesting that the Data First Workshop that he attended be offered to the joint boards.

BOARD RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

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TO PUBLIC
COMMENT**

Response to many of Kuriakos’ questions will be answered through the FOIA requests that he has submitted. Dr. Roberts will address any additional questions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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Gates moved, seconded by Barber, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 9:33 p.m. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Barber, Reddy, Harton, Clouser, and Traczyk
Nays: None
Absent: Spatz
Motion passed.

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Harton moved, seconded by Gates, that the Board of Education move into open session at 10:03 p.m. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Harton, Gates, Reddy, Clouser, Barber, and Traczyk
Nays: None
Absent: Spatz
Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

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There being no further business to conduct, President Traczyk declared the meeting adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2011, beginning at 7 p.m. in the Administration building located at 970 Madison Street.

Board President

Board Secretary