

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97
260 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
July 20, 2020 Meeting – Special Meeting (Retreat)**

This meeting was held virtually using Zoom during the time of the Coronavirus pandemic. Everyone participated via electronic means.

Vice President Kim called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Broy, Kim, Spurlock, Breymaier, Liebl, Moore, and Kearney
Absent: None
Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Carol Kelley, Director of Communications Amanda Siegfried, Senior Director of Technology Michael Arensdorff, IASB Representative Nakia Hall, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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Breymaier moved, seconded by Moore that the Board move into executive session for the purpose of Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees or Legal Counsel for the District (5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1), Self Evaluation (5 ILCS 120/2(C)(16) at 6:04 p.m.

Ayes: Breymaier, Moore, Kim, Kearney, Spurlock, Liebl, and Broy
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Breymaier moved, seconded by Kim, that the Board of Education, District 97 move into Open Session at 9:08 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement. The Board reconvened in Open Session at 9:08 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

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4.1.1 ACTION ON STUDENT RESOURCE OFFICER INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

Moore moved, seconded by Broy, that the Board of Education, District 97, after consideration of the pending agreement with the Village of Oak Park, to terminate the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Oak Park for School Resource Officer Services, which was executed on October 18, 1999. The Board directs the District Administration to notify the Village of the termination consistent with the terms outlined in the Intergovernmental Agreement. Such action is based on the Board's determination to discontinue police presence within District 97 schools and the Administration's plan to increase other supports and services.

Ayes: Moore, Broy, Breymaier, Spurlock, Kearney, Liebl, and Kim
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

4.1.2 APPROVAL OF BUILDING USAGE COORDINATOR AND LUNCHROOM MANAGER RATE OF PAY

Kearney moved, seconded by Breymaier, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the Building Usage Coordinator rate of pay as presented; and further that the Lunchroom Manager Rate of Pay for all

lunchroom managers be set at \$18.12 with future pay increases to \$18.54 for the 2020-2021 school year; \$18.91 for the 2021-2022 school year, and \$19.31 for the 2022-2023 school year.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed

PUBLIC COMMENT

Due to the nature of a virtual board meeting, the public was asked to email their comment to the board. All comments that were received prior to 7:00 p.m. were read aloud. The Board made it clear that any comments that were received after that time would be included in the minutes, but not read aloud. All comments were received prior to the start of the meeting and were read aloud.

PUBLIC
COMMENT

Member Moore read the following statements.

Anna Harlan

I am writing to you today to ask you to consider an alternative proposal to the plan that was presented to the Board at the July 14 Board meeting in regards to the Lunchroom Manager Rate of Pay.

As you know, it was proposed that they receive a gradual, 3 year, increase to bring them up to a wage that is currently on the low end of median (after 3 years it will likely be even lower).

I would like you to consider, and ultimately adopt, an immediate pay increase for these 10 District employees that at least brings them up to the proposed pay rate. As was stated in the meeting, they have not received a wage increase in 5 years, and because they are not union they currently have no set schedule for annual increases. *You should also know that at the start of their current benefits year the District dropped their vision coverage! And though this is a nominal cost to the district, it is an important benefit to many of them.*

By my calculations, this would cost the district, to immediately cover all the wage increases, less than \$29,235-\$31,485. I based this roughly on the number of days worked (remember they earn no wages on half days, institute days or holidays) times 6.7-7 hour work days.

If you have ever been in any of the lunch rooms, you know that our Lunch Managers are some of the hardest working and dedicated people in the buildings, keeping our children happy and healthy while doing it all with compassion, patience and smile on their faces. They love and feed all students, if not with food then with their warm smiles, kind spirits and loving hearts.

They have already waited 5 years for a wage increase, please do not make them wait **3 more years** to receive the increases that they deserve!

In light of our current conditions, they will most likely be asked to pivot in terms of their responsibilities and tasks, and you know they will do it gladly. They are team players who do more than you and I know and do it willingly!

In a District that prides itself on being progressive and equitable, we owe it to this amazing group of dedicated people.

Please bring all of their wages up to \$19.31 at the start of this 2020-21 school year.

Kate Ronan-Sizemore

Thank you for sharing my disappointment that schools will not be re-opening as usual this fall. Thank GOD my husband's income allows me to home school our only child. My heart goes out to the families

who cannot afford tutors or do not have the ability to home school their kids due to the financial or EMOTIONAL strain it causes. Our daughter, who struggles with math, will struggle even more as she enters Brooks twice a week with half of the sixth grade class and spends the rest of the time at home learning "old" math from her mother.

It became readily apparent by late March that my daughter's education was at risk. Zoom "classes" dissolved into showing each other's pets, teachers were muted, kids did not respond or interact and it was just depressing. As for "E-learning", there is no way for parents to know whether lessons were completed or not - not sure the teacher even knew.

After two months of homeschooling, I graduated our daughter Magna Cum Laude and jokingly said, "Just shoot me now if they do not go back to school in the fall".

As I mentioned to the teacher who was brave enough to hold virtual parent meetings, there has to be a way to hold the students accountable for getting their work done. And a way for kids to get help! E-mails were not answered and separate zoom meetings did not get conducted. Things do NOT bode well for a hybrid education system.

So worried, we are actually looking into Catholic Schools. How are they going back to school full time?!?!

Tonya Robin Fisher

I am a Beye parent. I would like to strongly encourage District 97 to consider offering a full time remote option to all students, including those with IEPS and 504s. In addition to many families feeling it is the best choice for their kids for a whole range of reasons, it could also decrease the students in school buildings and as a result, decrease possible COVID exposure and spread amongst staff and students.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Vice President Kim declared the meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Board President

Board Secretary