

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
Meeting April 23, 2013**

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

Present: Barber, Gates, Felton, Sacks, Traczyk (6:36 p.m.), Spatz, and O'Connor
Absent: None
Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Al Roberts, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Therese O'Neill, Assistant Superintendent of HR and General Counsel Joanne Schochat, Director of Policy, Planning and Communications Chris Jasculca, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Sacks moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 6:32 p.m. to discuss (Purchase or Lease of Real Property 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5), Collective Negotiations, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2), Sale of Property 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6), Student Discipline 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9)). Roll call vote.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

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

OPEN SESSION

Sacks moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education move into open session at 7:00 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

OPEN SESSION

The meeting was reconvened at 7:02 p.m. with all Board members in attendance.

SPECIAL REPORTS

DATA COACH UPDATE

SPECIAL
REPORTS

Harla Hutchinson shared her excitement about the Data Coach positions and introduced the 10 team members; Lorrie Applebey (Whittier), Michael Arensdorff (Julian), Elizabeth Conway, (Holmes), Jennifer Dietmeyer (Hatch), Elise Fiechtner (Brooks), Tricia Groben (Longfellow), Ann Labak (Mann), Nicole Ortega (Irving), Susan Oxnevad (Beye) and Eric Wold (Lincoln).

Hutchinson explained that the data coaches are splitting their time between data and technology with a heavier focus on data for this school year.

Arensdorf expressed the need for the Data Report. He shared how the data coaches help the staff and families understand the report which in turn helps them make data driven decisions.

Groben explained how the MAP test is becoming more understandable to the students. She reported that the teachers are meeting with students, reviewing the MAP scores, setting goals and creating action plans. "Go for the Growth" boards were shared as a tool that encourages growth. Data walls (actual and virtual) were shared as visual tools for teachers.

Labak talked about the technology side of the data coach job. Creation, collaboration, communication and critical thinking were shared as the four "C"s in assisting children to succeed in the classroom. She noted that Google Doc, iMovie and Web design are some of the tools used by the children.

DATA COACH UPDATE (Continued)

Dietmeyer talked about professional development. She explained that it is easy for the data coaches to take professional training and then share what they have learned with the staff. She noted the importance of not pulling the teachers out for full-day trainings. She reported that Apple has a catalog for professional development and the data coaches have the ability to attend the classes that meet the needs of the district. She introduced the Instructional Technology Web site that will be released to the staff in the near future.

Applebey shared how excited the team is to be part of the data process from the beginning. She noted that having a coach at each school has proven to be instrumental. She reported that interfacing with the staff varies from week to week and hour by hour, however, regularly scheduled RtI and data meetings are held.

Dr. Roberts noted that differentiation will become easier. He suggested, as a goal, not a directive, that all children have an instructional plan. He noted that, moving forward, teachers will do a better job of grouping and differentiating, and parents will have the necessary tools to help children at home. Dr. Roberts noted that the evaluation tool is already coming into play. The goal is to show a year's growth within a school year.

Arendsdorf suggested that the data warehouse that will be created by ECRA could be helpful to the district. He expressed interest in ECRA's ability to create the database without much assistance from the data coaches and share a recommendation on how to analyze the data that it will contain. He noted that efficient, effective and making it useful communication has been taking place between the coaches and staff.

Time for the data coaches and Hutchinson to meet together was identified as a challenge this year. It was noted that a calendar will be created for next year that will allocate time for team meetings first, with all other meetings being scheduled around them.

Applebey noted that staff acceptance is sometimes a challenge. She explained that staff is in the process of moving from the "I cannot risk it" attitude to "I can take the chance because I have support" attitude. Training one teacher on each team to become the team expert was suggested. Dr. Robert noted that the district is trying to combine the initiatives and show how the tools can support them.

Board interest was expressed in hearing about goal setting for children. The data coaches were asked to prepare a centralized list of Web sites that are good for students. Interest was expressed in seeing opportunities to share with other school district. Dr. Roberts and the administrators were acknowledged for creating the data coach model.

PUBLIC COMMENT

PUBLIC
COMMENT

Tammy Schulz, an Oak Park resident, expressed concern that the book *Monster* by Walter Dean Meyers is required reading for the seventh graders. She read part of the book aloud as an example. She expressed concern about the context and the lack of support the book has for PBIS. She shared that parents were not told how the book was chosen or why.

Laura Viise, an Oak Park resident, shared that she is considering not sending her child to Julian next year, and may not send him to the high school either. She has three younger children at home and does not want them exposed to topics identified in the book *Monster*. She requested information that would inform parents and allow them to have a voice in choosing reading materials. She noted that the book *Monster* is mandatory out loud reading for all seventh graders. She suggested that the district may be losing top students because of choices such as this.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Continued)

Wendy Daniels, an Oak Park resident, questioned why it is a teachers responsibility to share the contents described in the book with students without parent consent. She is disturbed that the book *Monster* has been assigned for all children. She read part of the book to the Board. Her second concern is that the book stereotypes a group of people, and suggested that a book like this only succeeds in encouraging stereotypes.

ACTION ITEMS

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2.1.1 Approval of Minutes of April 9, 2013

Gates moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the minutes from the April 9, 2013 meeting. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, Felton, Barber, Sacks, O'Connor, Traczyk, and Spatz

Nays: None

Motion passed.

2.2.1 Approval of Consent Agenda

President Barber read the items on the consent agenda. Traczyk moved, seconded by Sacks, that the following items be approved on the consent agenda. Roll call vote.

2.3.1 Bill Lists and Related Reports

2.2.1 Personnel Action as presented are revised

Ayes: Traczyk, Sacks, O'Connor, Felton, Spatz, Gates, and Barber

Nays: None

Motion passed.

2.4.1 Approval of Classroom Furniture Bid

Traczyk moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, award a contract for new classroom furniture at Hatch, Lincoln and Mann Elementary Schools to Lowery McDonnell in the total bid amount of \$662,557.30 as outlined in the memorandum to the superintendent dated April 8, 2013. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Traczyk, O'Connor, Felton, Spatz, Gates, Barber and Sacks

Nays: None

Motion passed.

2.4.2 Approval of ECRA Contract

Sacks moved, seconded by Traczyk, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the contract with ECRA Group to provide a collaborative resource and information service solution to support District 97 in areas related to, but not limited to, data warehousing, strategic goals setting, dashboard development, growth model development, and student achievement data analysis at a cost of \$79,000 per year. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Sacks, Traczyk, Felton, O'Connor, Spatz, Gates, and Barber

Nays: None

Motion passed.

2.4.3 Letter of Engagement for Fiscal Year Audit

Felton moved, seconded by Traczyk, that the Board of Education, District 97, enter into a renewal engagement with McGladrey, LLP, as its audit firm, for completing the FY-2013 annual audit, at a cost of \$53,500 as outlined in the memorandum to the superintendent dated April 9, 2013. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Felton, Traczyk, O'Connor, Sacks, Gates, Spatz, and Barber

Nays: None

Motion passed.

2.4.4 Action on Student Discipline

Gates moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education, District 97, uphold the suspension of student 20130423. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Gates, O'Connor, Sacks, Traczyk, Felton, Spatz, and Barber

Nays: None

Motion passed.

TOPIC REPORTS

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APPROVAL OF OUT OF STATE FIELD TRIP – MANN SCHOOL ODYSSEY OF THE MIND

Dr. Roberts explained that the Mann School Odyssey of the Mind team made the national competition and is seeking permission to travel out of state for this event. He reported that the team is not seeking any financial support, as part of the coaches goal is to teach the team members to be responsible. This item will return to the Board on May 7, 2013 for approval. It was suggested that Board approval may not be necessarily as this trip may not be classified as a field trip.

DONATION – 10 BOOKS TO SCHOOL LIBRARIES

Judi Chrisman, a retired school libraries has offered to donate 10 books to the school libraries. This will return to the Board for approval at the next meeting.

PLANNING OF FUTURE BOARD RETREAT

Board member elect Graham Brisben was invited to the table for this discussion. It was reported that Vice President Spatz and member Traczyk met to discuss a draft agenda for the summer Board retreat. Member Traczyk explained that the Board can go into closed session for the purpose of Board Self-Evaluation. IASB representative Jeff Cohn has been facilitating those meeting for the past few years and is available to facilitate this one as well. The draft agenda was shared with this in mind.

Interest was expressed in extending the day to meet the needs of the agenda, and everyone was asked to block off June 22, 2013 until 5 p.m. for this purpose. Interest was expressed in learning more about the individual reports that the Board receives and understanding their purpose.

It was noted that Jeff Cohn recommended that the Board members read *Maintaining a High Functioning Board* prior to the retreat. The Board secretary will order the books for them. Other prep materials may be shared with the Board during one of the May meetings.

Dr. Roberts asked everyone to be clear with their recommendations. He noted that changing the team members will changes the team. He expressed the importance for the new Board to establish norms and identify the future direction for the district.

PLANNING OF FUTURE BOARD RETREAT (Continued)

Discussion took place regarding the need for a facilitator during the open session of the retreat. Dr. Roberts suggested that the rules of a facilitator should be in place even if a facilitator is not used. It was reported that a location for this event has not been identified, but will most likely not be in the administration building.

The Board was asked to review the draft agenda and send all comments and suggestions to Vice President Spatz and member Traczyk.

BOARD GOALS TIMELINE

(2.1) *Four to six public reports on areas of community interest* (discuss data agenda)

Member Felton reported that she met with Dr. Roberts and the data coaches a few weeks ago and identified information that they thought would be interesting to the community. Although the forum is scheduled for May 23, 2013, concern was expressed about the number of people who will attend a forum that late in the school year. An alternative way to share the information (video or E-blast) was suggested. It was noted that a lack of desire to address the topics on the part of the staff is not the concern. It was suggested that sharing information at the beginning of the school year, perhaps during the Curriculum Nights might be a better way to reach the larger community.

The Board agreed to postpone the presentation slated for May 23, 2013 and present this topic during the Curriculum Nights in the fall. Dr. Roberts will meet with the principals to discuss the best way to incorporate this event into the Curriculum Night agendas. It was noted that a draft dashboard may also be available by then.

(3.3) *Adopt a plan for our Madison Street Properties* (Refine Direction)

This topic was discussed in closed session.

Review and updating of Timeline

The timeline was reviewed and revised.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

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The presentation on Common Core will be held at Irving School at 7 p.m. on April 29, 2013.

IASB accepted the proposal for a presentation from the CLAIM committee. The Early Childhood presentation was not accepted at this time, however, they were encourage to submit a proposal again in the future.

On April 19, 2013, a letter was sent to the Village requesting that the TIF payments be paid out. It was also noted that the Sale/Leaseback of the administration building has been paid in full.

Dr. Roberts, several administrators and a few future leaders within the district, spent a day and a half at an MSAN conference. There were a number of good speakers that caused the districts in attendance to think very differently about things.

BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board has a joint meeting scheduled with the Village and District 200 tomorrow evening at 7 p.m. to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement to support the Collaboration for Early Childhood. The meeting will be held in the East Library of the high school. A press event will be held at 6:30 p.m.

BOARD CONCERNS /
ANNOUNCEMENTS

The district retirement dinner will be held on Thursday, April 26, 2013. President Barber acknowledged the retirees.

BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS (Continued)

The Staszak Dinner will be held on Saturday, April 28, 2013. It was noted that P.I.N.G will be honored at this event.

The Board acknowledged fourth graders Ethan Gale, Devin Sturtevant, Jackie Owen, and fifth graders Mia Thompson, and Hannah Maloy, the Mann Odyssey of the Mind team members.

Concern was expressed about conflicts created when school events are scheduled at the same time as Board meetings.

Members Gates and Traczyk attended an IGOV meeting. It was reported that a new location for early voting will be necessary as the Village Hall will no longer be able to support this service.

A draft agenda for the May 7, 2013 Board meeting was shared. The process for nominating officers and the process that will be followed for election of officers was discussed. It was shared that Jeff Cohn from IASB encouraged Board members seeking officer positions to contact each other individually.

150 people have responded to the invitation for the April 29th Common Core event. It was noted that some of the guests will be from other districts.

Member O'Connor share data measures from Elgin and Schaumburg.

Vice President Spatz has been asked to serve on the Illinois Kindergarten Individual Development (KIDS) reporting committee.

One of the Education Foundation, one of the VEX Robotics teams from Julian qualified for the World Competition in California. It was suggested that the Board acknowledge the team at a future Board meeting.

Vice President Spatz will be attending a presentation on the legal infrastructure for civic engagement on May 6, 2013.

Request For Qualifications (RFQ) for a new architect have been released and are due back on May 8, 2013. The Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC) will review the documents prior to a recommendation coming to the Board.

RESPONSE TO
PUBLIC COMMENT

RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

It was noted that those sharing public comment this evening are all seeking reconsideration of the book *Monster* as required reading materials. Lisa Schwartz, Director of Teaching and Learning has put together a committee which is already reading the book. The committee which consists of teachers, administrators, a librarian and a Multicultural Center representative will prepare a report for the Board and the parent who made the request. Dr. Roberts asked that the committee expedite this request.

ADJOURNMENT

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There being no further business to conduct, President Barber declared the meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2013 beginning at 7 p.m. at the administration building located at 970 Madison Street.

Board President

Board Secretary