

Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97
260 Madison Street, Oak Park
September 13, 2022 Regular Meeting

This meeting was held in-person and virtually using Livestream. Board members met in person along with Administration.

President Kim called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Kim, Kinhal, Hurd Johnson, Moore, Ross Dribin, Kearney, Spurlock

Absent: None

Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Ushma Shah, Associate Superintendent of Education Felicia Starks Turner, Interim Senior Director of Human Resources Dr. Tim Kilrea, Senior Director of Technology Michael Arensdorff, Senior Director of Communications Amanda Siegfried, Chief Academic and Accountability Officer Dr. Ebony Lofton, Senior Director of Equity Dr. Carrie Kamm, Senior Director of Finance Patrick King, and Lonya Boose Board Secretary.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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Hurd Johnson 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, Collective Negotiating 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1)(2) at 6:09 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

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President Kim motioned that the Board move into Open Session at 6:55 p.m. All present members of the Board were in agreement. The Board convened in Open Session at 7:03 p.m.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

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Superintendent Shah and Board Members,

My name is Ranga Bodla, I'm a parent of Two Holmes Hawks, a third grader and a fifth grader with friends and trusted parents across our broader Oak Park Community. I come to you tonight as I have in multiple virtual board meetings to ask for an update on COVID. In the last board meeting, all of us were informed that this school year would be different. Not different because COVID is gone, but rather the district has decided to drop any level of transparency and ongoing testing. The dashboard from last year, while not perfect, was a useful and additional tool that parents could use in combination with data from the Village to make decisions for their families. Additionally, Shield Testing helped provide a nice reassurance to parents about their kid's health and whether or not masking was appropriate.

Let me read to you exactly what the Oak Park Village Ready Report says – “ IF you test positive on a home test and decide not to test at an official testing facility, please alert the Health Department of your positive home test...This won't be included in the official tally but will help give the Health Department a sense of the number of new cases beyond the official tally it receives from the state.

The cases being reported in the google form that the district is using to report cases to the health department is NOT being included in the ready report. As it stands today – there is NO transparency about the level of covid in our schools. Also in the last board meeting, it was discussed that there was no update on outbreaks, and that the district would follow the guidance of the health department. I know of first hand of a D97 fifth grade classroom where a student and teacher both tested positive for COVID. By the definitions that were published previously and haven't been updated, this would be an outbreak. Yet this parent received no further guidance about further interventions or mitigations.

Has the District received updated guidance from the Oak Park Department of Public Health? If not, have you asked?

I desperately want COVID to be over, I want the latest round of boosters to stop transmission and I want our kids healthy. I am asking for transparency and accountability to be able to make decisions and keep our kids safe.

Thank you,
Regards,
Ranga Bodla
Parent of Two Holmes Hawks

4. ACTION ITEMS

4.1 APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Spurlock moved, seconded by Moore that the Board of Education, of Oak Park Elementary School District 97, approves the consent agenda as presented.

- 4.1.1 Approval of Minutes from the August 16, 2022 Board Meeting
- 4.1.2 Bill List
- 4.1.3 Personnel
- 4.1.4 Approval : Posting Administrator / Teacher Salary and Benefits Report FY22
- 4.1.5 Approval : West 40 IGA Remote ALOP Program
- 4.1.6 Approval : DWC District 97 Resolution
- 4.1.7 Approval : BRAVO Advisory Board Donation
- 4.1.8 Approval : Brooks/BRAVO Overnight Field Trip

Ayes: Kim, Kearney, Ross Dribin, Hurd Johnson, Moore, Kearney, Spurlock

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

5. DISCUSSION AND ACTION

5.1 Approval of Tenured Teacher Resignation Agreement

Kearney moved, seconded by Spurlock that the Board of Education, of Oak Park Elementary School District 97, moves to approve the resignation agreement regarding tenured teacher Stacey Hill.

Ayes: Kim, Kearney, Ross Dribin, Hurd Johnson, Moore, Kearney, Spurlock

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

5.2 Issuance of Tax Anticipation Warrants Resolution

Spurlock moved, seconded by Moore that the Board of Education, of Oak Park Elementary School District 97, moves to approve the attached resolution authorizing the issuance of not to exceed \$6,500,000 Tax Anticipation Warrants or, in lieu thereof, Tax Anticipation Promissory Notes in evidence of a Line of Credit Agreement, in anticipation of the collection of taxes levied for the year 2021, by the Board of Education of the District for educational purposes and authorizing the sale of said warrants or promissory notes to the purchaser thereof, and authorizing the execution and delivery of a line of credit agreement and related documents.”

Ayes: Kim, Kearney, Ross Dribin, Hurd Johnson, Moore, Kearney, Spurlock
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

5.3 Resolution Directing Transfer of Working Cash Funds

Spurlock moved, seconded by Moore that the Board of Education, of Oak Park Elementary School District 97, moves to approve the attached the resolution directing the transfer of funds from the working cash fund of the District to the educational fund of the District in anticipation of the collection of taxes levied by the District for educational purposes for the year 2021 and such moneys so transferred to be reimbursed from such educational taxes upon their collection.

Ayes: Kim, Kearney, Ross Dribin, Hurd Johnson, Moore, Kearney, Spurlock
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

5.4 Loan Resolution | Transportation to Educational Fund

Spurlock moved, seconded by Moore that the Board of Education, of Oak Park Elementary School District 97, moves to approve the attached resolution loaning funds from the transportation fund of the District to the educational fund of the District.

Ayes: Kim, Kearney, Ross Dribin, Hurd Johnson, Moore, Kearney, Spurlock
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

6. SPECIAL REPORTS

6.1 #D97Joy

The “Be Curious” work team has worked to streamline special events, mentions and celebrations under the hashtag #D97Joy. At this meeting a video was shared providing highlights of all the Back-to-School joy and Welcome of new hires to the district. The video can be seen by viewing the recorded livestream of the board meeting on the district’s YouTube Channel.

7. BOARD ASSIGNMENTS

- Community Council will be meeting soon.

- Board member Moore reports out that along with District 200, we are looking to reestablish the equity tri-board meetings.
- Board member Moore reports that a Candidate Forum for anyone interested in running for the school board is coming soon and will provide background information, and insight into this role. Dates TBD.

8. CONCLUDING ITEMS

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8.1 Board Remarks

There is a need for some communication around expectations especially as it relates to transitions, as such with elementary to middle school. Parents would benefit from information around expectations, how to be involved, a sort of highlighting of key areas of the transition process.

*Dr. Shah notes that this body of work around transition is something the Administration has already highlighted and is currently looking into.

President Kim and the Board wishes to Welcome all the New Hires to District 97 for the 2022-2023 School Year. As the year gets underway, The Board of Education is wishing all Students, Staff, Parents and Community all the best for a great year in partnership!

10. ADJOURNMENT

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All Seven Present Members of the Board were in agreement that the meeting be adjourned. There being no further business to conduct, President Kim declared the meeting adjourned by voice vote at 7:47 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary