

**Official Minutes of the  
Oak Park Board of Education District 97,  
970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois  
Meeting October 22, 2013**

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

Present: Spatz, Gates, Sacks, Felton, Traczyk, O'Connor and Brisben  
Absent: None  
Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Al Roberts, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Therese O'Neill, Director of Policy, Planning and Communications Chris Jasculca, Director of Special Education Mike Padavic, Director of HR Steve Cummins and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

ROLL CALL

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

Sacks moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education move into executive session at 6:33 p.m. to discuss (Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), Collective Negotiations, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2), Purchase or Lease of Real Property, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5)). Roll call vote.

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

**OPEN SESSION**

OPEN SESSION

Sacks moved, seconded by Felton, that the Board of Education move into open session at 6:56 p.m. All members of the Board were in agreement.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:01 p.m.

**SPECIAL REPORTS**

SPECIAL REPORTS

**AD HOC DASHBOARD/BENCHMARK COMMITTEE UPDATE**

President Spatz introduced Gudelia Lopez, Rupa Datta, Rebecca Kaegi and Denis Roarty as members of the new Ad Hoc Dashboard/Benchmark Committee and noted that Datta will be the chairperson. He also identified administrators Dr. Roberts, Harla Hutchinson and Felicia Starks Turner, community member Amber Stitzial Pareja, Board member Jim O'Connor and himself as committee members. He noted that several of the committee members hold master degrees or PhDs.

**ECRA GROUP REPORT**

Kim Perkins came to the table. He shared a report that summarized the services that ECRA Group will provide to the district. He noted that the company also provided an analysis of student growth in the district during the 2012-13 school year using student achievement data from the 2013 spring ISAT, MAP and DIBELS assessments. He explained that in order to describe the student growth findings, he would need to include a brief synopsis of how ECRA's Local Growth Model is constructed, an explanation of the model's terminology, and an explanation of the data tables that were shared with the Board.

Perkins noted that the District 97 reports compared to other districts are very strong. He noted that the schools are achieving the type of growth that should be expected according to student's historic longitudinal performance. Additionally, he noted that the AYP subgroups indicated that

#### ECRA GROUP REPORT (Continued)

they reached expected growth. He reminded the Board that the reports are growth related, not status related, and explained that the consistency shown in the District 97 reports is not typical.

He reported that a secured portal is available for staff to follow the growth of individual students. It was noted that the data coaches will be able to help the teachers determine which children need something different. The faculty will need to identify where they were successful so they can duplicate their successes. Perkins shared that supporting the students identified in these reports will help to close the achievement gap.

Dr. Roberts reminded the Board that it is the use of data that matters and the fidelity of instructional practices. He noted the importance of gaining support from the parent/guardians by helping them navigate the system and identify interventions that work.

President Spatz reported that the Board and administrators completed the Data First training last year, noting the importance of benchmarks and peer groups. He noted that the Ad Hoc Dashboard/Benchmark Committee will determine what is useful to the community and the Board versus what is useful to teachers and principals. The committee will also be meeting with Perkins to review the data.

#### AIR CONDITIONING AND ACCESSIBILITY UPDATE

Therese O'Neill and Jennifer Costanzo from STR Architects came to the table. O'Neill reported that at the last Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC) meeting reviewed and revised the air conditioning proposal, and that the accessibility proposals have not been reviewed by the committee.

Costanzo reported that STR will be performing an analysis that will provide air conditioning options that will include system upgrades, sound levels, etc. The analysis will also include a cost by school and classroom breakdown. The analysis will be presented to FAC on November 12, 2013 and the Board during the November 19, 2013 meeting.

Costanzo reported that heating controls will be changed when necessary and will pay for themselves and show some cost savings. She noted that up to 10 options will be shared for each building.

Board comments included interest in reviewing the temperature history in the schools.

Costanzo reported that the accessibility proposal for seven of the elementary schools will be reviewed and the feasibility of the report will be considered. Her team will visit the schools, assist the cost estimator and consider viable alternatives. The cost of construction will also be reported. This report will also return to the Board on November 19, 2013.

Dr. Robert explained that the extent of the work done in this area will be determined by the cost of the projects and the available funds.

The Board expressed interest in moving forward with this project.

#### FINANCE OVERSIGHT AND REVIEW COMMITTEE (FORC) ANNUAL REPORT

Bruce Ulrich, chairman of the FORC committee came to the table. He reported that the committee is a standing committee of the Board. He noted that the FORC meets quarterly and from time to time has special sessions to support specific requests of the Board or the committee member's educational needs.

## FINANCE OVERSIGHT AND REVIEW COMMITTEE (FORC) ANNUAL REPORT (Continued)

He reported that the committee focuses on the operating budget for the district, and noted that the district is doing a masterful job of controlling discretionary spending outside of salaries and benefits. FORC continues to have concerns regarding revenue flows due from the state. While it appears the late payments have stabilized, the percentage allotment has decreased, creating additional revenue pressure on the district's existing and forecasted revenues. FORC reviewed the investment policy for the district and proposed some revisions to further improve the yields on district's investments.

Moving forward, one of the key tenants of the updated FORC recommended financial policy is benchmarking the district's financial management with other comparable districts. FORC feels there are still areas of opportunity to improve investment management and will continue to work with the district to update the investment policy and associated practices. FORC anticipates that the most critical financial issues in the district near-term will center on the new teacher contract. FORC supports the Board's approach to establish a comprehensive capital investment plan. He suggested that the Board recognize Craig Iseli, the former chairman for his valuable service and leadership to the FORC and the Finance Advisory Council (FAC).

The committee was commended for the "drive between the white lines" policy, and it was noted that the peer group analysis needs to be finalized. Long-term DSEB was discussed.

Board comments included interest in knowing if the FORC committee has identified a representative who will work with the Ad Hoc Dashboard/Benchmark committee. Interest was expressed in knowing when the Forecast 5 data will be reported. It was noted that Oak Park has been identified as the eighteenth most educated community in America by the NerdWallet Web site.

### PRESENTATION OF PRELIMINARY 2013 LEVY

Therese came to the table. She explained that this is part one of a four part process. She reported that annually, the Board must first review an estimate of levy (October 22, 2013) and then, at a subsequent meeting, adopt this estimate (November 5, 2013). If a proposed levy is in excess of 5 percent, a Truth-In Taxation notice must be published and a public hearing must be conducted. A final commended levy is presented, along with a brief PowerPoint presentation (November 19, 2013) with a public hearing and adoption on December 17, 2013.

She reported that the proposed levy increase is in concert with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 1.7 percent, and does not require publication or the public hearing. However, the Board has historically chosen to continue this process.

In reviewing the recently presented 5-year projections and recognizing the loss of revenue in the Education Fund due to the General State Aid (GSA) proration of 89 percent, and analyzing all other operation fund balances through June 30, 2018, O'Neill proposed reducing the 2013 levy in the transportation fund and holding constant the 2012 amounts in both the IMRF and Social Security levies.

As described above, this item will return to the Board for action on November 5, 2013.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Elizabeth Rexford, retired District 97 teacher and Oak Park resident, expressed concern for the lack of bike racks at the schools. She reported that she currently works as a substitute teacher in the district and would prefer to ride a bicycle to school. She reminded the Board that Oak Park is supposed to be a bike friendly community. She noted that some principals have offered for her to

PUBLIC  
COMMENT

### **PUBLIC COMMENT** (Continued)

bring her bike inside, however, it is awkward to manage through the new security doors. She encouraged the Board to install bike racks. She noted that the middle schools and Beyer have bike racks and they do not have a problem with the children riding their bikes. She offered to work on a committee to assist in this initiative.

Mike Stewart, an Oak Park resident and parent, reported that he is a member of the transportation committee and walks to work. He also encouraged bike racks at the schools. He reported that an organization arranged for a bike rack to be placed outside of Lincoln School and the installation was denied. He shared a document on childhood obesity and encouraged the promotion of safe biking initiatives. Additionally, Stewart noted that bike racks need to be installed in visible, well lit locations. Stewart also volunteered to assist on a committee to address this need.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

ACTION ITEMS

#### **2.1.1 Approval of Minutes from the October 8, 2013 meeting**

Felton moved, seconded by Traczyk, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the revised minutes from the October 8, 2013 meeting.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

#### **2.2 Approval of Consent Agenda**

O'Connor moved, seconded by Sacks, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the consent agenda as presented to the Board. Item 2.2.3 Approval of Settlement Agreement was tabled.

2.2.1 Bill List

2.2.2 Personnel

2.2.4 Adoption of Policies

2:120 – Board Member Development

5:20 – Workplace Harassment Prohibited

6:120 – Education of Children with Disabilities

7:230 – Misconduct by Students with Disabilities

7:240 – Student Records

4362.01 – Threatening Behavior Toward Staff Members

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

### **BOARD COMMITTEE/WORK GROUP REPORTS**

BOARD COMMITTEE  
/ WORK GROUP  
REPORTS

#### **POLICY REVIEW UPDATE**

Board protocols will be shared at the next meeting.

#### **FACILITIES UPDATE (FAC)**

It was requested that the annual report for the Facilities Advisory Council (FAC) be moved to January 28, 2014. The committee will be meeting on November 12, 2013 to review the reports from STR.

#### **FINANCIAL UPDATE (FORC)**

No update was shared.

## IASB RESOLUTION REVIEW

Vice President Gates shared an analysis of the Board members resolution options, and reported that he will vote on the Board's behalf. Vice President Gates was acknowledged for his efforts.

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE (CLAIM)

Vice President Gates and member Felton have been meeting with the CLAIM Committee to finalize their presentation for the Joint Conference scheduled for November 23, 2013. They requested a date to share the final presentation and to get direction on new challenges.

It was reported that the Legislative Forum was successful. Members of the committee have been in contact with Senator Harmon, who requested a meeting with committee representatives. It was noted that Rupa Datta, chairperson of the data sub-committee, will attend that meeting.

The committee plans to present a final report in the spring. A separate discussion a month in advance to discuss the committee charge and primary duties was requested.

## SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION UPDATE

Item 3.5.1 was tabled. Dr. Roberts reported that after their meeting with ECRA, the principals expressed interest in doing more to address the achievement gap. They are in the midst of creating their goals which should be completed this week.

Discussion took place about renaming the bonus document to performance recognition. A draft of the new document will be ready for review during the November 19, 2013 meeting.

## MADISON STREET PROPERTIES UPDATE

Dr. Roberts, President Spatz and member Sacks met with the village representatives on October 11, 2013 and will meet again on November 1, 2013. They are narrowing down the options at this time and will present something to the Board in the near future.

## CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PLAN UPDATE

Member Brisben reported that the scoring system on the Capital Expenditure spreadsheet has been revised and tools were created for scoring and submission. It was reported that a representative from FORC, STR and Therese O'Neill have reviewed the document. O'Neill and Norm lane are currently populating the document with real capital expenditure data. Brisben noted that feedback will be available in about two weeks and a demonstration will be ready for the November 19, 2013 Board meeting.

## AD HOC DASHBOARD/BENCHMARK UPDATE

The first meeting of this committee will be held on Monday, October 28, 2013. It was reported that FORC and CLAIM recently had a member resign. It was suggested that term limits be checked and shared with the Board on November 5, 2013.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT

Dr. Roberts reported that this is National Principal Appreciation Week. He acknowledged the principals and recognized the critical role that they play during this crucial time in education.

Dr. Roberts reported that the technology department functions have been reviewed and the consultant's recommendations have been considered. He noted that the goal of the department is to have high quality and consistent use of technology to encourage engagement and active learning on a daily basis. He reminded the Board that it is about the vision, methods of teaching and the way that students create and connect.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** (Continued)

Dr. Roberts noted that further development of the 1:1 initiative plan is necessary before the devices can go home. He identified January as the target date for bringing the devices into the classrooms. A date for the students to begin taking the devices home was not identified.

Dr. Roberts sent a note to staff members last week regarding Common Core. He noted that during the Superintendent's Summit that he attended, many superintendents shared the concern of how to help staff not be burdened with the stress of this task. He noted the importance of the static reports and encouraged all to prepare to look at student learning from several perspectives; the local growth model, our status reports and most important, authentic learning models for students.

Dr. Roberts shared the EXPLORE data with the Board. The report showed the national percentiles and indicates that the District 97 students are doing much better than the national norm, but there are some students who need additional support. He reminded the Board that the next two years will be challenging as the district tries to paint a fair picture of how the students are doing.

He shared some workshop topics that the Board members might consider during the joint conference.

**BOARD CONCERNS /  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Member Sacks attended the Education Foundation meeting on October 16, 2013. She reported that the organization will be holding the "Oak Park Education Foundation Rocks Out" fundraiser at Fitzgerald on November 21, 2013. She also reported that more students will be serviced by the Education Foundation programs this year.

Member Sacks attended the Special Education Parent Advisory meeting last Monday.

Concern was expressed about the length of the November 19, 2013 agenda. An additional meeting was suggested to accommodate the numerous reports.

The Hephzibah contract will be reviewed tomorrow.

The Board secretary was asked to send the electronic file of the PTO meeting dates to the Board.

Member Traczyk attended the Those Who Excel award banquet. The names of the district winners were announced.

Vice President Gates and Amy Felton will attend the PTO Council meeting on October 28, 2013. It was suggested that this group be asked about bike racks and solicit their feedback. Once a year school photos will also be discussed.

Concern was expressed about the district being ready for common core. It was reported that there will be a \$4 per student penalty to districts that are not in compliance. ISBE is already preparing, there will be many changes and concern was expressed about the challenges.

The first meeting of the new Ad Hoc Dashboard/Benchmark committee will be held on Monday, October 28, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

President Spatz will be attending a S.T.E.M. Education Dinner Symposium this week.

The Collaboration for Early Childhood announced that they signed a contract with a Parenthesis Family Center for a home visiting component.

## **BOARD CONCERNS / ANNOUNCEMENTS** (Continued)

The Special Education Resource Fair was well attended.

### **RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT**

President Spatz noted that the PTO Council will be asked to advise the Board on the suggestion of bike racks at the schools. Dr. Roberts explained that there is more to this than meets the eye. He shared that the healthy community is looking into the use of bikes, and noted that there is a safety concern with some of the buildings that are located on busy roads. He reported that Greenline Wheels has come in and worked with the kids on bike safety, and the district worked on a grant for sheds to be used for bikes storage. Oak Park has been working toward building a community where cycling is more acceptable. Concern was expressed about theft and busy streets. Dr. Roberts will communicate to all of those involved.

RESPONSE TO  
PUBLIC COMMENT

A discussion took place about allowing children to ride bikes to school.

### **PREVIEW AGENDA FOR THE NOVEMBER 5, 2013 MEETING**

The draft agenda for the November 5, 2013 meeting was reviewed and revised.

PREVIEW AGENDA  
FOR FUTURE BOARD  
MEETING

### **BOARD TIMELINE**

The Board timeline was reviewed and revised.

BOARD TIMELINE

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, President Spatz declared the meeting adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2013 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Administration building located at 970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois.

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Board President

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Board Secretary