

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97
260 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
February 13, 2018 Meeting**

President Spurlock called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Spatz, Spurlock, Liebl, Broy, Breymaier, O'Connor (arrived after roll call), and Datta (arrived at 6:11 p.m.)

Absent: None

Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Carol Kelley, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Dr. Alicia Evans, Assistant Superintendent for HR Laurie Campbell, Chief Academic and Accountability Officer Dr. Amy Warke, Senior Director of Special Services Ebony Lofton, Senior Director of Policy, Procedures and Communication Chris Jasculca, Senior Director of Administrative Services Dr. Felicia Starks Turner, Senior Director of Equity Dr. Carrie Kamm, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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Spatz moved, seconded by Breymaier, that the Board of Education move into Executive Session at 6:00 p.m. to discuss (Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees or Legal Counsel 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1), Collective Negotiations 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(2), Student Discipline 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(9))

Ayes: Spatz, Breymaier, Liebl, O'Connor, Broy, and Spurlock

Nays: None

Absent: Datta (absent at time of vote)

Motion passed.

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Breymaier moved, seconded by Datta, that the Board of Education move into Open Session at 6:58 p.m. All members of the Board in attendance were in agreement. The meeting reconvened at 7:05 p.m.

RECOGNITION
NATIONAL
BOARD
CERTIFICATION

PUBLIC HEARING – 2019-2020 Calendar

The Public Hearing regarding the 2019-2020 District Calendar was called to order by President Spurlock at 7:05 p.m. Laurie Campbell pointed out some of the changes made to the calendar noting that the intent was to align the District 97 calendar with the calendar for District 200. Those in attendance were invited to speak regarding the calendar and no one expressed interest in doing so. President Spurlock called the Public Hearing closed at 7:07 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Krasinsky, an Oak Park resident who has two children at Brooks Middle School, shared that he is also a member of the Oak Park Call To Action. He shared that the group has been working to support the district in a number of ways, including advocating for the passage of the referendum last year and for advancing equity in the schools. He asked that when the Board considers ways to engage the community in the equity discussion that they recognize that some of the parents might be interested in participating but may not because of the need for childcare. He reminded the Board that these families still deserve to be heard. He asked the Board to make the process equitable, and suggested livestreaming meeting, creating a dedicated email for parents to communicate directly with those of you who are responsible for crafting the policy language and goals, and pro-actively reaching out to and engaging groups like DIVCO and the Special Education Parent Advisory group to get their perspectives on the choices you will be making for our children. Krasinsky recommended amending the equity statement.

LEARNING
SESSION

Krasinsky read a statement from Stacey Austin, an Oak Park resident with two elementary school aged children. Austin supported the request to add the work “disabilities” to the District’s Vision. She suggested that there is one basis upon which outcomes are predictable in this District – and that is disability. She noted that if this district is committed to providing access and opportunity to all students, it must include access and opportunities for students with disabilities in its commitment to equity.

Austin noted that a child who is no longer receiving a deficient education due to his race is not better off if he is still receiving a deficient education due to his disability. A deficient education is a deficient education, regardless of the reason.

Cindy Michelotti, an Oak Park resident and parent, thanked the Board members for the time and energy that they dedicate to the students of Oak Park. She requested that the word “disability” be added to the equity goal, so it reads as follows;

EQUITY - The practice of beliefs and creation of systems that provide access and opportunities for all students – thereby eliminating race, gender, socioeconomic and disability status as predictors of outcomes.

She suggested that the district and the community needs to teach all children that differences are okay, and value that there is not one skill that is valued more than another. She suggested that this would allow us to grow as a community.

Elizabeth Katzman, an Oak Park resident and parent, requested that students with disabilities be added to the district’s equity statement to read:

“Equity: The practice of beliefs and creation of systems that provide access and opportunities for all students – thereby eliminating race, gender, socioeconomic and disability status as predictors of outcomes.”

She asked that the district advance equity for these students, along with all others, through the Vision’s success plan. Katzman talked to the Board about disabilities, implicit bias regarding them, and why disabilities should be included in the district’s equity statement. She explained that disability intersects with race, gender, and socioeconomic status. The risk of poor outcomes is compounded for people with disabilities who are also members of other at-risk groups.

Katzman reported that over 14 percent of students in Oak Park have IEPs for their disabilities and there are many others who have 504 plans. She suggested that the two combined groups make up a significant portion of the student population. She suggested that some of the children are “twice exceptional” – they have disabilities but are also gifted. She expressed concern that children of ALL abilities may not get access to appropriately challenging curriculum and that low expectations for children with disabilities can and does worsen the achievement gap.

Lindsey Bremer, an Oak Park resident and an incoming District 97 parent, requested that the word “disabilities” be added to the equity goal within the Vision97 4ALL brochure.

She explained that her daughter, who has special needs will go to Lincoln School starting in the fall, and as an incoming parent, she has been working to understand how her family fits into the vision and the community within the district. Reading the vision made her uneasy as she did not see that children with disabilities were included. When she initially raised this question about why students with disabilities were not included, she was told that “the community did not call for it”. Bremer reported that she reviewed the notes for the community meeting and shared several notations that indicated that children with disabilities were considered during these discussions.

In summary, Bremer indicated that the community is very much calling for equity in the district for students with disabilities, and that updating the equity language as such would very much align with what the community wants.

Kelly Simkowski, an Oak Park resident and parent of five children in the district, two of which are special education students, requested that the word “disability” be added to the equity goal within the Vision97 4ALL.

She explained that like the other groups mentioned in the Vision statement, individuals with disabilities have experienced a legacy of systematic oppression in every facet of society including voting rights, employment and education. The intersectionality of race, gender, and socioeconomic status compound the implications of disabilities. Simkowski shared a brief history of laws governing disabilities and noted that today congress voted on HR620 which weakens the American with Disabilities Act by significantly reducing access for people with disabilities to social services establishments, stores, and other places of public accommodation.

Tonya Fisher, an Oak Park resident and parent of a District 97 student with a disability, requested that the word “disability” be added to the equity goal within the Vision97 4ALL, and asked that the district drive that equity for these students, along with all others, through the Vision’s success plan.

Fisher shared that her husband is from Bolivia, her father is Oneida, she was raised Jewish and her husband was raised Catholic. They sought out a community that is supportive of diversity and inclusion of all people and trusted that Oak Park would support their son who has an IEP.

She reported that her son began Kindergarten at Beye School this year and everyone is exceeding their expectations.

Fisher expressed outrage and sadness that disabilities was not included with race, gender and socio-economic status in the Vision statement, leaving out the approximately 15 percent of the children with IEPs and many more with 504 plans. She asked how she can rectify trusting her son to a district that does not even aspire to ensure his outcomes are equitable and believe that his possibilities are truly limitless.

Dr. Kelley explained that the wording of the Vision statement was based on the feedback from the community chats. She noted that there are four vision elements and the new draft proposed by the consultants is;

“The practice of beliefs and creation of systems that provide access and opportunities for all students.”

Dr. Kelley explained that by addressing gender and socioeconomic, the district thought it was addressing all students.

Stacia Smith, an Oak Park resident with four children in the district, moved to Oak Park for the warm and welcoming community. She shared that she is also the Vice President of the Holmes PTO Welcoming and Diversity wing and DIVCO. Smith wanted to speak to the equity vision and policy. She explained that she has two children with an ADHD diagnosis, but never get invited to Special Education meetings or public conversations. She explained that parents who have children with 504 plans have significant stress, and it seems like if you do not have an IEP you get overlooked. Smith wanted to speak on behalf of transgender children, and noted that she has a transgender sibling. She noted the need to be welcoming to all people, and suggested that staff might not even know that you have a transgender student in the school. Smith asked the Board to create a transgender policy to address this. She recognized that there is an administrative procedure addressing transgender students. Smith expressed concern that the Federal Government is trying to reduce ADA and school discrimination, and noted that transgender children have a high suicide attempt rate. She suggested that District 97 stand up to the plate and put all the transgender information on the Website.

Dawn Deaton, an Oak Park resident and staff member for 20 years, shared that she left the January 23, 2018 Board meeting with her head spinning. She expressed concern that the first two agenda items requested close to \$2,500,000 in expenditures annually. She noted that the referendum was needed so that programs would not be eliminated. Since then, she noted that there have been a multitude of new expenditures and requests for new positions. She noted that as a taxpayer, she is concerned about the amount requested, and reminded the Board that the taxpayers expect that expenditures would be made judiciously and cautiously. She asked what would be cut if these new expenditures are approved. Deaton expressed concern that the decisions for new staff were being made in isolation and expressed concern that the students get the services they deserve.

Regarding scheduling, Deaton noted that the materials in the Board packet was not what was presented at the table. The packet had the MTSS information, but little reference to the schedule even though the agenda item title “Master Schedule Recommendation”, and the PowerPoint that was presented was completely different from that in the materials provided. She suggested that “master schedule” is not new and both the previous process and that of this year were both misrepresented and noted three statement on page 3 of the report that they she identified as incorrect.

Deaton noted that the report regarding Foreign Language in the Elementary School (FLES) had several errors. The acronym was misspelled as FLESS and the comments regarding the number of instructional minutes for K-2 were unclear as to why they were at 90 minutes. Deaton reported that the 90 minutes was direct outcome of the

referendum which promised to restore instructional to language learning that had been cut because of budget shortfalls.

Deaton explained that she is not adverse to change, but asked at what cost? She expressed concern that the district is spending beyond its means and could be losing its soul and the richness that makes us Oak Park.

Tara Ravage, an Oak Park resident and the parent of a Kindergartner at Whittier School, expressed concern about the recent email sent addressing physical activity. She found the email condescending, and noted that it was signed by a random department name.

Ravage suggested that the standards for time allocated to PEA and recess are not being met in the schools, and shared that her Kindergartener shares that the class does not get to go out for lunch recess on days when some kids are not listening and sometimes watch movies during recess time.

Ravage makes it a point to drive by the school during recess times and noted that on January 17, 2018 the Beye students were outside playing while the Whittier students were inside watching a movie. She noted that these two schools are only half a mile apart. She questioned how this kind of discrepancy happens?

She asked the district to tell her what they plan to do about the fact that Whittier has absolutely no physical activity of any kind when recess is indoors. She reminded the Board that the school has a gym, auditorium, hallways and creative educators and suggested that there are simple ways to solve this problem. She suggested that the children could simply dance to music, and noted that the gym is not in use during the lunch period.

Ravage shared that co-interim principal Kasik indicated that the number of adult supervisors monitoring (lunch) recess ranges from 2-5 adults, depending on the day of the week. Ravage questioned if the adult to student ratio is legal.

Ravage suggested that one of two things will happen. Either the district will knowingly continue to put the children at risk by not having proper supervision on the playground or it will ensure that Whittier has sufficient recess monitors, solving the indoor movement recess concerns as well.

Sarah Miyata, an Oak Park resident and parent of 3 children, the oldest of which is at Brooks, expressed concern about the loss of academic time to increase movement. She noted several activities (watching Disney movie, playing games, skating at Ridgeland Commons, etc.), that take the students away from academics. She reported that the seventh graders filled out survey on what games they like to play, and last Friday would have been a sports day, but was cancelled due to the bad weather. Miyata expressed concern about the drop in the fall MAP scores and summer loss. She asked the Board to consider a discussion about holding school year round. She indicated that in her opinion, it is not acceptable for kids to participate in activities and not focus on academics. She shared that the principals at Holmes School shared that the last week of school focuses very little on academics. Miyata suggested that the students lose about 25 days a year being engaged in these other activities instead of academics.

Jessica Flannery, an Oak Park resident and parent of three Irving students, addressed the Board on behalf of a group of Irving parents. They expressed concern about the decrease in recreational time during the school day. They noted that research shows that children learn best, feel better and have improved focus when given unstructured recess breaks throughout the day. They expressed interest in working with the district to create a schedule that allows for more time for recess. They suggested that limiting movement is not in line with the district's values. Flannery shared that her son does not like school anymore because there is no recess in the morning. She questioned the value of increasing academic time when the youngest students are already too burnt out to absorb the materials. Flannery noted that 66 Irving parents expressed interest in continuing this dialog.

Joel Blacha, an Oak Park resident with two children at Irving School, thanked the Board members for their dedication to the children. He shared that he and his partner love Irving School. He shared that he is a teacher and expressed concern about lack recess and outdoor play. He shared that no matter what kind of school he has taught in over the past 18 years he has seen firsthand the importance of play. He shared that there is critical learning that occurs for children when they play in a less structured, outdoor setting. He suggested that play is just as crucial for our children's development as is the academic work they do in school, and benefits the in-class, academic time

because play provides the fuel for stronger engagement and attention in addition to greater frustration tolerance and stamina.

Blacha shared a statement from his son;

“My name is Tate Pacelli Blecha and I’m a third grader at Irving. When I have less recess, I can’t focus as much on my school work. So, if you want more education you should put more recess in.”

Patrick Durgin, an Oak Park parent and father of a second grader at Mann School, shared that he teaches Great Books during the lunch hour. He shared that the Classmates of the students he is working with are at lunch and his students are working while eating. He reported that the students cannot focus, and they need to move around.

Alan Porterfield, an Oak Park resident and parent of two girls at Lincoln School, thanked the Board for listening to parents this evening. He noted that there is a lot of information out there and questioned how the District is measuring its success and how it knows that what we are doing is working or not working? He expressed concern about losing free time at recess and suggested that it could negatively impact performance and student satisfaction. He asked for more clarity around how we could have a better schedule moving forward.

Susan Raphael, an Oak Park resident and parent of three children at Irving School, expressed the need for kids to move. She expressed concern over the lack of priority on this issue, and suggested the following.

- 1) Provide outdoor time in the morning and afternoon for Kindergarten – fifth grade students. This is easy. Teachers should have the time to take regular breaks. She noted that many children do not have the opportunity to play outside.
- 2) Conduct an analysis at each of the schools to offer more physical education. Raphael noted that after attending the December 15, 2017 Board meeting regarding the PE waiver. Raphael suggested that no research was done to show what can be done to offer daily PE, and the Board has chosen to not follow this policy. She indicated that there was support to allocate funding for this issue and asked when the full Board will have this discussion?
- 3) Conduct an analysis of indoor lunch recess options when planning the schedules for each of the buildings, asking is there a way to ensure the gym and art room are open during the lunch hours? Is there a way to budget for more gym teachers during the winter months?
- 4) Provide training for teachers on PEA - what can be done to ensure that there is more physical activity going on during rainy and cold days when kids cannot go outside. Making public the list of suggested PEA activities / exercises by grade level and confirm that they have been shared with all teachers / administrators to ensure consistency across classrooms and schools.
- 5) Encourage and train teachers on how to use the outdoor space in their lesson plans. Share best practices.

Claudio Martinez, an Oak Park resident and parent, thanked the Board for their service. He requested that the word “disability” be added to the equity goal within Vision97 4ALL. He noted that educational outcomes will vary by disability, but there are a few very clear facts about educational outcome relationships. One is that the extent that identified disabilities are identified early and skills learned as a child that include how do I specifically learn with my disability, not despite my disability, will determine a child’s ability to become a lifelong learner. Aside from academics, children learn how society works and their place within their community. A disability is one part of a complex child. Growth mindset, positive mental attitudes, and being in an inclusive environment that supports them as an individual is equally important.

Martinez share graduation percentage rates and noted that people with disabilities tend to make less than the average American income. He reminded the Board that there are many good reasons to add disability to the vision. He asked them to make sure that this issue does not fall out of sight, out of mind.

John Duffy, an Oak Park resident, addressed the Board about racial equity. He expressed support for the people who spoke this evening about disabilities. Duffy suggested that the people often claim to be equitable, but that is not always racially just. He shared that the high school is about to make changes and noted that the District 97 draft equity policy shows a strong understanding but it is far from enough. It needs to include what is working and not working as far as hiring teachers of color. Duffy reported that he attended the equity training held at District 90 recently and suggested that the district take the next step to a racial equity lens for all decision making in the

classroom. He asked the Board to consider including ability into the equity statement to precede and supersede a child's designation. Duffy suggested that it is who we are as human beings. He asked the Board to think about racial equity in different ways, and suggested that the district has racialized this discussion on equity by excluding it. Duffy suggested that the National Equity Project (NEP) is doing fine work, and that Race forward is a wonderful resource. He asked how the district can work with District 200 to bring NEP into the community. Duffy concluded by noting that the community does not change, and shared that he was promoting equity 30 years ago.

ACTION ITEMS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 9, 2018 AND JANUARY 23, 2018 REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS AND THE JANUARY 30, 2018 AND JANUARY 31, 2018 SPECIAL BOARD MEETINGS

Spatz moved, seconded by Broy, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the January 9, 2018 and January 23, 2018 regular Board meetings the January 30, 2018 and January 31, 2018 special board meetings as presented.

Ayes: Spatz, Breymaier, Broy, Datta, Liebl, and Spurlock
Nays: None
Absent: O'Connor
Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Spatz moved, seconded by Broy, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the consent agenda as presented.

- 3.2.1 Approval of Bill List
- 3.2.2 Approval of Personnel
- 3.2.3 Approval of the 2019-2020 Calendar

Ayes: Spatz, Broy, Datta, Breymaier, Liebl, Spurlock, and Broy
Nays: None
Absent: O'Connor
Motion passed.

Member O'Connor returned at 8:15 p.m.

3.3.1 REJECTION OF SITE UTILITIES AND EXCAVATION BIDS

Broy moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education, District 97, reject all site utilities and excavation bids presented on December 19, 2017.

Adopting changes.

Ayes: Broy, Spatz, O'Connor, Breymaier, Datta, Liebl, and Spurlock
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

3.3.2 APPROVAL OF HOLMES CONSTRUCTION BIDS

Spatz moved, seconded by Breymaier, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve contractor J. S. Riemer (Bid Group 1E) as the successful bidder for site utilities and excavation as presented.

Ayes: Spatz, Breymaier, Broy, Datta, O'Connor, Liebl, and Spurlock
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

It was explained that the Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC) decided that the district could get a better price if the items were bid together. Bids were accepted and came in about \$50,000 less than what was previously received.

3.3.3 ACTION REGARDING STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Liebl moved, seconded by Broy, that the Board of Education, District 97, That the Board of Education, District 97, rescind the suspension of student 20180124.

Ayes: Liebl, Broy, Datta, Breymaier, Spatz, O’Connor, and Spurlock
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

3.3.4 SUMMER WORK BIDS

Spatz moved, seconded by Liebl, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve bidders and corresponding bid amounts pursuant to the Holmes expansion and Life/Safety projects in the amount of \$4,822,455 (Bid Group 2) as presented.

Ayes: Spatz, Liebl, Broy, Datta, Breymaier, O’Connor, and Spurlock
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion passed.

It was reported that FAC spend 60-90 minutes discussing Bid Group two. There are several items not included in this group and will be rebid later in this month. Bids are being accepted for review, some that came in over the estimate and some that came in lower than expected. It was noted that the summary on page 63 of the Board packet stats that it was about \$2,000 over the estimate but the contingency is still less than three percent. There will be a final bid group for interior finishes in mid-March. Alternatives will be discussed at that time.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Kelley highlighted the written report which was included in the Board packet, noting the videos highlighting IB, technology, recent trainings with the National Equity Project (NEP) and data dives that we conducted yesterday.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

FIRST REVIEW – DSEB

Alicia Evans came to the table with Liz Hennessey from Raymond James. Evans explained that based on the ongoing conversations with the Finance Oversight and Review Committee (FORC), the issuance of DSEB (non-referendum bonds) will be delayed. Currently, FORC is exploring options for a July 2018, December 2018 or a March 2019 issuance. In addition, the \$10,000,000 issue amount will be only \$7,500,000 as a result of the abatement. However, the expenditures related to the construction activity will be due in July, August and September 2018. Under this scenario, the District will pay for construction expenditures using operating funds and reimburse itself using DSEB funds in an effort to save interest.

Consequently, two resolutions will be required. The first resolution is to create the DSEB parameters. The second resolution allows the District to reimburse itself for expenditures paid through operating funds.

It was explained that the resolution for reimbursement is self-explanatory as it is reimbursing the district from DSEB to the Capital Funds. It was reported that FORC was supportive of this recommendation and there was no discussion as to why the district would not choose to move forward with this recommendation. It was explained that the district does not have to move forward with this method, but if the Board does not approve the resolution, the option would not be available to them moving forward. It was noted that lowering the amount of the bond sale from \$10,000,000 to \$7,500,000, the district will see a savings of interest without extending the length of the bonds. It was noted that if the Board hits the deadline of September, it could let the resolution expire and adopt another. The deadline for bond sales is February, so the resolutions could be extended until then.

It was reported that FORC meets again on February 20, 2018.

UPDATE ON FOOD SERVICES

Evans reported that an IGA with the high school to supply lunches was approved a few years ago. However; an agreement needs to be signed annually. Evans reported that the agreement will be signed in the near future.

RECOMMENDATION OF FOOD SERVICES FEES AND STUDENT REGISTRATION FEES

Evans reported that she does not recommend an increase in fees for the upcoming school year. She noted that fees were not increased last year either. Evans explained that the decision to increase fees would be made during the 5-Year Projection discussion. She noted that this structure has been in place for many years and should be reviewed.

It was noted that funding is available for families who need assistance, and payment plan options are also available.

Interest was expressed in knowing if the fees actually pay for what we are providing and if not, what would that fee be?

DONATIONS – BROOKS AND MANN SCHOOLS

Evans reported that the Brooks PTO would like to donate \$1,400 to purchase library furniture. The furniture includes two café tables and six backless metal bar stools.

The Mann PTO would like to donate \$5,700 to purchase risers for student performances, noting that the current risers are very old. Over time, these risers have been repaired multiple times and can no longer be repaired. Additionally, the Mann PTO would like to donate \$11,000 to refurbish second floor lockers at Mann School.

Board comments included interest in knowing at what point the district pays for items and not the PTOs. Evans explained that this item was not reported to the Business Office as a need, the PTOs simply sent in the request. These items will return to the Board for action on February 27, 2018.

E-RATE

Michael Arensdorff came to the table. He reported that no cost effective solutions were presented, so they were all turned down and he will continue to consider other options. He will keep the Board updated on the fiber project. Arensdorff reported that the second item to consider is the wireless needs. He is currently receiving bids and will report back in the near future. He shared that typically this would have been part of the technology plan, but the E-rate window was moved up and he wanted to take advantage of the savings to the district. Because of this, there will be no action required during the March 13, 2018 Board meeting on this topic.

STAFF DEVICE REFRESH

Arensdorff reported that he has been working with the Technology Advisory Group to determine what “learning” looks like to them, consider space needs and determine what the learning includes. A survey was shared with the teachers asking them about their experiences with MacBook Airs and iPads. The 262 responses were glowing for the MacBook’s, but because of the survey responses, he will not be recommending a refresh of the iPads at this time.

Arensdorff reported that he is still looking at mirroring and exploring options. He noted that it is still less expensive than other solutions.

Arensdorff noted that the needs of the teachers were taken into consideration. Additionally, he noted that the student devices would be sold back to offset some of the cost. He shared that the district could get back about \$220,000 which would make the first year of the lease cost neutral. Arensdorff was acknowledged for thinking outside of the box and identifying opportunities for savings.

POLICY REVIEW

Chris Jасulca came to the table. He shared 23 policies for review, noting that most of them are changes required due to changes in the law. He explained that the committee has tabled three or four policies that will require additional work. Additionally, he noted that the committee is trying to merge District 97 Wellness policy with the PRESS version.

Discuss took place regarding the Policy on Physical Education. Interest was expressed in waiting to approve this policy until a firm decision has been made regarding the future of the PE Waiver. Concern was expressed that the

adoption of the policy could indicate that the district is lowering their standards. After a brief discussion and noting that the policy change only aligns the policy with the law, it was agreed to move forward.

Concern was expressed that the Board has not had a follow up discussion on the priority of physical education and it was suggested that the Board consider adding this topic to a future agenda. The Board was reminded that the current waiver is for two years, giving the district time to come up with a plan before it expires in June 2019. Interest was expressed in knowing if Teaching and Learning considers physical education as a core subject.

Discussion occurred regarding the need for trained defibrillator users at all events, noting that it is now a law. It was noted that the Special Education Department leads the trainings on this and will work with the nurses to make sure that the district is in compliance.

Jasculca was asked to look into compliance of Policy 5:200 (terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal).

Interest was expressed in knowing if feminine hygiene products would be supplied to the fourth and fifth grade girls as well as the middle school girls. It was noted that the district is currently in compliance with the law, but will investigate the cost of offering them to the younger students.

It was explained that Policy 7:260 (Exemption from Physical Education) is geared more toward high school athletes who, because they participate in organized sports, receive the daily requirement for exercise. By exempting them from a PE class, they could use the time to complete homework. An administrative procedure on this topic was suggested that defines exceptional circumstances.

It was noted that Policy 5:200 simply changed the number “4” to the word “four”.

BOARD COMMITTEE PRACTICES AND PROTOCOLS

Jasculca reminded the Board that they originally reviewed the Board Committee Practices and Protocols on August 29, 2017. Jasculca sent the revised document to all Board committee chairs for review. He reported that between them and the policy team, a few changes were made and shared with the Board for review this evening. After approval by the Board, the document will be included in the committee protocol section of the Website and each committee will add a discussion of the protocol to an upcoming committee agenda.

It was reported that at a future meeting, the Policy Committee will discuss;

- Disabilities and MTSS related to equity
- Transparency Policy
- Anti-drug Policy
- The committee charges will need to be reviewed to make sure they reflect the protocols

BOARD ASSIGNMENTS

STANDING BOARD COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORT FOLLOW UP (as needed – FAC, FORC, CCE and CLAIM)

CLAIM

It was reported that Carolyn Newberry Schwartz from the Early Childhood Collaboration will be in attendance at the March meeting to share an update on the Collaboration’s work.

It was noted that three committee members resigned and two members have join the committee. The next meeting will be held on March 8, 2018 at Julian Middle School.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL LIAISON REPORT FOLLOW UP (as needed – IGOV, COG, PTO Council, CEC, OPEF, COMMUNITY COUNCIL, TRI-BOARD ON EQUITY, POLICY AND SELF-EVALUATION)
IGOV

An email was distributed about the plan for Vision Oak Park. The next IGOV assembly will be held on March 17, 2018. It was noted that the last assembly had guests in the audience who found the experience enlightening.

COG

President Spurlock will send out a liaison report summarizing this meeting. She noted that the Library, Township and Park Districts all shared updates. District 97 reported on MTSS and the Summer Program.

ECC

It was reported that the next IGA Governing Board meeting is scheduled on February 28, 2018. The agenda for that meeting was shared previously and members were asked to let Member Spatz or Dr. Kelley know if they had any questions. The flyer for the upcoming symposium was shared, and it was noted that it is one of the largest early childhood events in the state.

It was noted that Dr. Kelley, Felicia Starks Turner and Member Spatz have been attending EDI meeting with Erickson Institute. Teachers have been asked to fill out information and the community discussed what else to map. It was reported that the process is on schedule and the information should be shared in May or June to begin community conversations. It was noted that the engagement process will be determined moving forward.

DAY IN OUR VILLAGE – June 3, 2018

President Spurlock reminded the Board that the Day in Our Village event will be held on June 3, 2018. It was agreed that a Doodle would be sent out to determine everyone's availability on that day. It was noted that President Spurlock will not be available to participate.

EQUITY POLICY

It was reported that the Committee for Community Engagement (CCE) is requesting clear direction from the Board on how to proceed with the development of a community engagement strategy to support the writing and adoption of an equity policy and the Board training on communication around the policy. A document created by members Datta and Breymaier was shared that included a recommended timeline for the process along with goals for the engagement process and questions that the Board needs answered to formulate an equity policy. Board members were asked to review the document and make recommendations on changes to member Datta by Thursday evening. By Saturday, February 17, 2017, Datta and Breymaier will review the changes and make an assessment of whether or not the feedback is substantially different and requires discussion on February 27, 2018. Chris Jasculca was asked to send out an email blast on February 26, 2018 assuring the public that there will be ample time for them to share their thoughts regarding this policy. Concern was expressed about this messaging being vague and not including any concrete information. It was suggested that the Board agree on the timeline so it can be included in the message.

It was made clear to the Board that the intent of the CCEs engagement is not to write the equity policy, but to help the Board determine how the community engagement should be conducted ensuring that everyone who will be affected by this policy have a voice in its creation.

Interest was expressed in knowing if the first draft of the policy will be the one shared during the community engagement events or if it will be revised prior to requesting community input, but no direction was given as to which version of the policy will be used for this purpose. It was suggested that the Board use the same community engagement list that was used during the referendum outreach.

Concern was expressed about the lack of headings on the shared document. It was suggested that all documents placed in the Board packet be clearly identified. It was noted that this document was not in the Board packet, but only distributed to the Board members at the table this evening.

The following addition was recommended.

5.3 What supports are necessary to ensure that the Board is successful?

Datta noted that there is a chance that the CCE committee may wish to cancel the March 14, 2018 training session with the Board, as they may need more time to create a deliverable and prepare a training for Board members to specifically support the rollout of the engagement plan. The committee would probably still meet that evening, just not with the Board.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

BOARD REMARKS

Member Liebl had a discussion with a board member from another community board who expressed interest in creating a youth board. She asked that Board members send her their thoughts on this topic. It was suggested that the idea be shared with IGOV or COG.

Vice President O'Connor attended the Instrumental Music Concert at Julian Middle School this evening and reported that OPTA Co-Chairperson Lary Grimaldi was the guest violinist.

AGENDA MAINTENANCE

The draft agenda for February 27, 2018 meeting was reviewed and revised.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Spatz moved, seconded by Datta, that the Board of Education move into Executive Session at 10:17 p.m. to discuss (Collective Negotiations 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(2))

Ayes: Spatz, Datta, Breymaier, Liebl, O'Connor, Broy, and Spurlock

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

OPEN SESSION

Breymaier moved, seconded by O'Connor, that the Board of Education move into Open Session at 10:28 p.m. All members of the Board in attendance were in agreement.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Spurlock declared the meeting adjourned at 10:28 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Board President

Board Secretary