



Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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TO: Members, Board of Education
Dr. Carol Kelley, Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Alicia Evans, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations

RE: Recertification of Hazardous Crossings

DATE: June 12, 2018

Since the last Board meeting, a representative from the Illinois Department (IDOT) of transportation was contacted to discuss the next steps regarding the hazardous crossings recertification. During the conversation about the existing intersections, it was noted that the hazardous conditions that were present when the crossings were first designated hazardous may no longer exist today. Therefore, clarity was needed in order to determine the best course of action for the 2018-2019 school year and future years.

The representative highlighted that if a hazardous condition does not exist at a particular intersection, it is dishonest for the District to continue to recertify them as such. Hence, the annual recertification serves the purpose of annually validating that the crossings are still hazardous. Therefore, if the intersections are not hazardous, they should not be recertified. The agent also noted that the best way to confirm whether crossings are hazardous is to submit an application to IDOT for each intersection and have the agency confirm the designation by certifying or decertifying the intersections. The representative suggested that if available, the District should obtain the original application, review the hazardous conditions and determine if those perils still exist. The next step would be to reassess the intersections, based on the IDOT application criteria and resubmit the application. Additional intersections could be added if needed. This submission should be done in time to correspond with the approval of the recertification of the hazardous crossings.

Currently, it is too late to submit an application to IDOT and receive the results in time for the hazardous crossings recertification Board approval in June. However, the application can be resubmitted at any time during the year and the Board can vote at any time to certify the crossings.

For 2018-2019, the Board must determine whether to recertify the intersections as hazardous. Since there isn't enough time to validate the existing intersections, the recommendation would be to recertify the crossings with the caveat that the District will seek to reassess the intersections during the 2018-2019 school year. This will allow enough time to thoroughly review the intersections, submit the application and receive the IDOT determination. It is further recommended that this work be done by the transportation ad hoc committee that was established to review District transportation overall.

Please note that IDOT audits are periodically conducted throughout the State, but it isn't highly likely that our hazardous crossings will be audited but the possibility does exist.