

**Official Minutes of the
Oak Park Board of Education District 97
260 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
March 12, 2019 Meeting**

President Spurlock called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Spatz, Spurlock, Broy, O'Connor, Liebl (7:00 p.m.), Breymaier (6:20 p.m.), and Datta (6:13 p.m.)
Absent: None
Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Carol Kelley, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Paul Starck-King, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Laurie Campbell, Senior Director of Policy, Procedure and Communications Chris Jasculca, Senior Director of Technology Michael Arensdorff, Senior Director of Special Services Eboney Lofton, Senior Director of Buildings and Grounds Jeanne Keane, and Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Spurlock motioned, seconded by Broy that the Board move into executive session for the purpose of Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees or Legal Counsel for the District 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1), Collective Negotiations 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(2), Other Student Matters 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(10) at 6:02 p.m.

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

OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Breymaier moved, seconded by O'Connor that the Board move into Open Session at 6:57 p.m. All members of the Board in attendance were in agreement. The meeting reconvened at 7:03 p.m. with all members of the Board present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

PUBLIC COMMENT

LeeAnne Reinfurth, an Oak Park resident and parent of a second grader at Lincoln School, reported that her daughter came home from school with a concussion. She shared that she was not notified by the school that her daughter was attacked by another student. She reported that the class has an evacuation plan. She told the Board that they do not want their children to not feel safe at school, and indicated that the principal has not offered options to solve the problem. Reinfurth suggested that the student in question needs help.

Deena Bernett, an Oak Park resident and parent of a second grader at Lincoln School, expressed concern over the safety in the classroom. She reported that her daughter had a glass water bottle covered in plastic. The student in question, threw the bottle and broke it. She also threw a stand to the floor. Bernett expressed concern that other children in the room could have been hurt. She reported that the principal and assistant principal are putting supports in place, but Bernett suggested that those plans are not enough. She recommended assigning a teacher assistant to the classroom or reassign the student to different classroom. She told the Board that her daughter deserves to go to school and not feel afraid, and to be able to focus on her classwork. Bernett suggested that the child needs support and something needs to be done before another child is injured.

Wendy Kuenster, an Oak Park resident and parent of a second grader at Lincoln School, agreed with the other public comments. She reported that she is a special education teacher who deals with aggressive children. She told the Board that the classroom in question needs a teacher assistant to support the student in question. The student needs an assessment and intervention plan. She suggested that if a plan already exists, it needs revisions.

Kristin Alexander, an Oak Park resident and parent of a second grader at Lincoln School, shared that her family sacrificed a lot to move to Oak Park. She expressed disappointment over how the district is dealing with the student in the second grade classroom, and that the situation in the classroom was never shared with her. She was told on

PUBLIC COMMENT (Continued)

several occasions about her child’s reaction to the student in question, but was never told that there were other problems with that child. Alexander suggested that the teacher cannot safely manage this student and the rest of the children. She suggested that the classroom should have a permanent teacher assistant assigned to the room immediately, and expressed disappointment that it took another child to be hurt before action is taken.

Teresa Sears, an Oak Park resident and parent of a second grader at Lincoln School, reminded the Board that there are 20 people in the second grade classroom, and everyone is responsible for all of them. She reminded them that there is a child in need and the district has resources to support the child. She suggested that by not meeting those needs, the classroom learning environment is being compromised. Sears shared that she met with the principal who indicated that some of the information about the situation is confidential. Sears expressed concern that there is miscommunication to the parents, and an evacuation plan for eight year old children. She suggested that issues like this have been addressed at other schools and questioned why it was not addressed at Lincoln School.

Marshall Brown, an Oak Park resident and parent of a second grader at Lincoln School, reported that he and his wife received an email over the weekend about the issues in the second grade classroom. His wife knew who the student in question was as this was a widely known problem. Brown reported that the teacher is dedicated and has also been assaulted by the child in question. He reported that there is an evacuation plan in place, but the parents were never told about it. He expressed the need for a safe environment for the children to learn. Brown finished by putting the Board members on notice, that if there is ever a scratch on his child, that he will hold them responsible.

Amr Mahrow, an Oak Park resident and parent of a second grader at Lincoln School, expressed shock over the extent of the problem in the second grade classroom. He encouraged the Board to take action and offered his support.

Lisa Magnuson, an Oak Park resident and parent of a second grader at Lincoln School, shared that her son has had personal incidents with the child in question, and she was made to think that it was just between the two of them. She shared that earlier this year, the teacher asked the students to take on a classroom job. Although her son expressed interest in other tasks, he was given the job of evacuation leader. She pointed out that her seven year old is expected to call evacuation and lead the students out of the classroom.

Andrea Mikenas, an Oak Park resident and parent of a second grader at Lincoln School expressed support for the comments made by the other parents this evening. She reported that her son has been stressed out since the beginning of the school year. She shared that conversations with the teacher this year have all focused on how her son can deal with the behaviors in the classroom. She explained that her son’s group gets extra challenge time, but is often shortened because of management issues in the classroom. She explained that the teacher has to keep stopping to redirect the student, and because of this, her son’s education has been interrupted constantly. She shared that it is not the teachers fault. Mikenas explained that she did not realize the full extent of the problem until her son came home one day excited that he was able to learn a whole lesson.

Erica Henry, an Oak Park resident and parent of a Lincoln School student, expressed support for the Spanish Immersion program. She reported that she attended two meetings recently and found both to be unsettling in different ways. At one meeting, parents were concerned that new class placement processes will be put into place without parent input. At the same time, parents were informed that the family enrollment will not be taken away, at least not this year. She reported that there were tears and harsh words exchanged at the meetings. Henry expressed concern that the atmosphere at these meetings might put the program in a bad light. She expressed concern that over the years, advocates have come and gone hearing that the Board might consider elimination of the program. Henry encouraged the Board to consider expanding the Spanish Immersion program, acknowledging that it might be difficult when there are other issues that need their attention, and offered her support to enlarge the program. She acknowledged Dr. Kelley and Dr. Warke for listening to the concerns.

SPECIAL REPORTS
CO-TEACHING UPDATE

Eboney Lofton came to the table. She reminded the Board that the district defines co-teaching as the partnering of a general education teacher and a special education teacher or another specialist for the purpose of jointly delivering instruction to a diverse group of students, including those with disabilities or other special needs, in a

SPECIAL
REPORTS

CO-TEACHING UPDATE (Continued)

setting that flexibly and deliberately meets their learning needs. The intent of co-teaching is to make it possible for students with disabilities to not only access the general curriculum, but also benefit from specialized instructional strategies necessary to nurture their learning.

She reported that in order to support the expansion of co-teaching, the special education department has;

- Provided professional learning sessions for general education teachers and special education teachers
- Opened a blended early childhood section
- Implemented the use of a co-teaching fidelity tool to determine the need for additional supports and resources
- Monitored the percentage of students that are provided with special education services in a separate setting for more than 60 percent of the school day
- Leveraged teacher, parent and student focus groups to provide the department with qualitative data to inform the supports necessary for continued expansion

She shared that the Co-Teaching Fidelity Tool is in active use. The tool is meant to measure the ways in which teacher teams collaborate and plan for impactful instruction; the delivery of universally designed instruction with a focus on teaming and creating all students with opportunities to understand and engage with academic content and the ways in which teams collaboratively assess both student growth and their own practices. The tool has been shared with the district’s administrative leadership team as well as all special education and general education teachers touched by co-teaching. Data is collected for elementary teams (pilot expansion schools) monthly. The intent is to address programmatic change in order to inform the provision of supports and resources. Lofton shared the results of the Fidelity Tool Scores noting an increase from 84.4 percent in September / October to 92.2 percent in February.

Lofton reported that the department also closely monitors the percentage of students who receive special education services in a separate setting for more than 60 percent of their day. This year, the department’s goal is for that number not to exceed 10 percent of all students with disabilities. She reported that the percentage has dropped from 11.4 percent at the beginning of the school year to 10 percent as of March.

Lofton reported that as the department looks forward to continuing the co-teaching expansion, there are several factors to consider. These include;

- Continued professional learning for teachers with avenues for job-embedded supports alongside ways to leverage existing teacher expertise in future training models
- Expansion of co-teaching to the remaining buildings that currently house instructional programs
- Continued collection of teacher, student and community feedback to inform program refinements
- Supporting professional learning aligned to Universal Design for Learning principles
- Continued qualitative and quantitative monitoring to inform the provision of resources and support

Lofton concluded by sharing that the Special Education department will be presenting at the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development’s (ASCD) Annual conference on March 18, 2019, and will have the pleasure of debuting a video that highlights inclusion in the district’s early childhood program.

ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEMS

3.1.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 26, 2019 BOARD MEETING

Breymaier moved, seconded by Broy, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the February 26, 2019 Board meeting.

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

3.1.2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 5, 2019 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Spatz moved, seconded by Breymaier, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the March 5, 2019 special Board meeting.

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

3.2 APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 3.2.1 Approval of Bill List
- 3.2.2 Personnel (revised)
- 3.2.3 Acceptance of Donation

It was noted that the donation is for stationary bikes gifted from Planet Fitness. The delivery of the bikes needs to occur prior to the next Board meeting, so the Board was asked to expedite this request. Dr. Kelley noted that although the gift is earmarked for Julian Middle School, the bikes will be distributed equitably between the two middle schools.

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

3.3.2 APPROVAL OF ESTIMATED AMENDED BUDGET AND PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Spatz moved, seconded by Datta, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, review its Estimated Amended FY2019 Budget, authorizing placement of such Estimated Amended FY2019 Budget (with any subsequent changes) on display for a minimum of 30 days and authorizing publication of Notice of Public Hearing on April 30, 2019.

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

3.3.3 ACTION ON RESIDENCY ISSUE

O'Connor moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, based upon and after the Board's consideration of the written evidence and testimony presented at the residency hearing held on February 20, 2019, the Board of Education finds that Student No. 2015788 is not a legal resident of Oak Park Elementary School District No. 97 and is not, therefore, entitled to attend District 97 schools on a tuition free basis.

O'Connor moved, pursuant to the Illinois School Code, 105 ILCS 5/10-20.12a and 10-20.12b, that the Board of Education charge the parent of the student tuition for each of the student's attendance in the District schools during the 2018-2019 school year at the annual per capita tuition charge of \$13,978.22, prorated for each of the student's 121 days of attendance, from the first day of the 2018-2019 school year through today's date, and charge the family the daily tuition rate for each additional day the student attends District 97 schools until the student establishes residency in the District or is dis-enrolled or withdrawn from District 97 schools.

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

3.3.4 APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION CALLING FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON INTENT TO EFFECT INTERFUND TRANSFERS

Datta moved, seconded by Breymaier, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the attached Resolution calling for a Public Hearing on Intent to Effect Interfund Transfers.

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

3.4.1. APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR

Breymaier moved, seconded by Spatz, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, appoint Eboney Lofton as the Chief Academic and Accountability Officer for Oak Park Elementary School District 97 at a salary of \$153,000 effective July 1, 2019.

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

SUPERINTENDENT’S
REPORT

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Kelley reported on the progress of the Pillar three initiatives. She reminded the Board that this pillar focuses mainly on people, social emotional supports, social workers, and allowing the district to monitor the support it is giving to students. She shared that Dr. Kamm and Dr. Starks Turner are not in attendance this evening because they are attending a class on restorative practices at Loyola. Dr. Kelley noted that the Effective Student Behavior Handbook falls under this umbrella, as do projects focused on building capacity to support student excellence. Administration is also helping the instructional coaches provide support to classroom teachers on different forms of differentiation.

Dr. Warke shared that the district will be featured in an Ignite Session, and Holmes, Hatch and Mann will sponsor a table at the ASCD conference.

Dr. Kelley reported that Carolyn Thomas’ recent work features one of the Mann teachers.

She reported that the second half of this year will be focused on videos. Teachers will be taping themselves and using the tapes as coaching tools.

Dr. Kelley reported that a lot of the work under this pillar has been done by Human Resources (HR). They have created a dashboard that shows candidates by color and who has been hired. She noted that Cabinet reviews these metrics on a regular basis. Additionally, one department is working on professional learning teams supporting the school level leadership. Dr. Kelley expressed confidence that the goals for Pillar Three will be reach by end of the year.

APPROVAL OF
EQUITY POLICY

3.3.1 APPROVAL THE EQUITY POLICY

President Spurlock shared a revised draft of the equity policy and it was reviewed. A few minor revisions were recommended and President Spurlock was asked to share a final version with the Board members.

Breymaier moved, seconded by Datta, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, adopt the Equity Policy as amended.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE
ITEMS

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY

No discussion occurred on this topic. This item will return to the Board for action on April 9, 2019.

TERMINATION OF THE JULIAN PARKING LOT AGREEMENT

Paul Starck-King reported that he had a productive meeting with the Village last week. They discussed the inconsistencies in the agreement and noted that the signage in the lots may be confusing. He reported that the Village came into the meeting fairly aggressively, saying that if one parking agreement is revised, then all of them would require revisions. He noted that when the Village talked about spaces that the district owns, conversation was collaborative, but when they talked about Village owned spots, the conversation became one sided. Starck-King did feel that the meeting ended productively. Starck-King reported that consideration is being given to changing the community parking time to later than 6:00 p.m., use of the parking lot across from the district office on Madison Street, relocating the handicap parking spaces in the district office parking lot to Madison Street, etc.

Board comments included interest in knowing how many parking spaces are in question. It was suggested that the district think outside the box and support alternate transportation for staff, like bike racks, giving a credit for transit use, or a transit FSA.

FUND TRANSFERS TO COVER PURCHASE LEASE PAYMENTS

Starck-King reported that the fund transfers are the annual transfer of funds required to pay for the capital leases, and do not require a public hearing. This item will return to the Board for action on April 9, 2019.

APPROVE LINCOLN AND LONGFELLOW ASPHALT AND LANDSCAPING BIDS

Starck-King came to the table with Jeanne Keane and Peter Kuhn from Bulley and Andrews. Kuhn reported that the Lincoln construction project is currently \$2,400,000 under budget and the Longfellow project is \$700,000 under budget, noting that with the bids being presented this evening, the two projects are below the \$30,000,000 estimated budget.

Kuhns reported on the status of the two projects, and acknowledged that landscaping, especially the placement of the playground equipment is important to the Longfellow community.

Kuhns reported that both schools have developed a “Behind the Fence Club”. The club was created by teachers and includes about 20 to 30 students. The children meet with Kuhns who will give them an introduction to construction and will take them on a tour of the construction site.

ENVISION OAK PARK COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

President Spurlock asked the Board to reconsider this topic. She reported that there is an effort to try and see how compliant District 97 is to the comprehensive plan. It was noted that the plan is a Village initiative and was never formally approved by the district’s Board.

Member Spatz will reach out to the Village Manager, Cara Pavlicek to get an update on the initiative, and meet with member Broy to update her on the history of this effort before the new Board is seated.

BOARD ASSIGNMENTS

BOARD ASSIGNMENTS

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

FINANCE OVERSIGHT AND REVIEW (FORC)

It was noted that the committee needs to transfer \$3,200,000 of the referendum overage to keep the commitment made by the Board. Another \$3,000,000 will need to be transferred in 2024 to keep up with that promise moving forward.

Member Spatz emailed his calculations to the Board regarding the selling of bonds in 2022 and 2023. He noted that over five years it should balance out.

This item should be included on the upcoming FORC meeting agenda. Starck-King will also include a discussion on the 5-year forecast.

COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (CCE)

A two-page draft referendum update was shared and reviewed. The purpose of this documents is to share a brief update with the general community, and the Board was asked if this document still meets that need. It was made clear that this document is intended to update the community on what the district has done since the referendum, not specifically what the district is doing with the referendum dollars.

Discussion took place about the order of the items on the document and whether the Board would like to expand or edit the document to include photographs. Boxes or bullet points were suggested as a way to shorten the document. The Board members were asked to send their comments/recommendations on this document to member Datta by March 21, 2019.

CLAIM

It was reported that the committee chair and another committee member will communicate with the state regarding the capital expenditure grant. It was noted that they have already shared this information with Senator Harmon.

Jeanne Keane explained that the State is looking for an overview of items that would cost more than \$500,000. She noted that the HVAC upgrades and the controls for the middle schools would meet this criteria.

It was noted that CLAIM also discussed the two data sharing bills that were submitted by the district and approved by IASB.

It was reported that two CLAIM members resigned from the committee, and a search for new members was requested. It was noted that Deborah West expressed interest in volunteering for a committee.

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

IGOV

It was reported that climate action was the topic of the last IGOV meeting, with a goal of a 100 percent renewable action plan, and a draft climate policy, which would be a non-binding pledge, being presented to the Village board.

It was noted that the district does not have a person who is just focused on sustainability. Jeanne Keane is working with Denise Frank and explained to her that the district needs to start small. She reported that it would cost about \$24,000 per school to install solar panels, and that grants are being considered. Keane and Frank agreed to meet a few times each year to continue this discussion.

COLLABORATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD

It was reported that the Collaboration met on February 27, and that the notes from the meeting had been emailed to the Board members. The fiscal agent document was discussed during the meeting. Starck-King shared that he was aware of the discussion and had already talked to someone about the concern.

It was reported that the Collaboration held their annual symposium on February 23 and it was well attended.

OAK PARK EDUCATION FOUNDATION (OPEF)

The Board was reminded that the Bingo Bash will be held this Friday.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Community Council is scheduled to meet this Thursday. They will be discussing transitions (fifth grade to sixth grade, eighth grade to high school). Their next meeting is scheduled for April 11. Member Spatz will be out of town, so member Broy volunteered to attend in his place.

TRANSPORTATION

Member Spatz shared documents that explain the history of the process for review.

It was agreed that the next steps will be to collect cost and contract options for consideration. A sliding scale was suggested that could be used to tie in all agencies.

TRANSPORTATION (Continued)

Consideration was given to steps that could be completed now to make the process easier later. A committee or task force was recommended as a way to take care of some of the process prior to involving the Board. Member Breymaier volunteered to create a list of people who would have expertise in the field (consultants or transportation engineers). A case study of a district that charges for transportation, like Evanston, was suggested.

It was noted that the Ed Foundation is seeking grants. If they are awarded one, the district may not need a task force.

The Board was reminded that an implementation would not occur until the fall of 2020.

SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION

President Spurlock reported that the superintendent's evaluation process has been started, but will not be completed until the new Board has been seated. The Board was reminded that two years ago the process was completed without the data.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

CONCLUDING ITEMS

BOARD REMARKS

Member Spatz attended an EDI meeting at Erikson Institute recently with John Borrero and Laura Crawford from the Collaboration. The meeting included this year's participants and those from the past.

It was reported that Linda Darling Hammond retweeted about the success of the National Board Certification program in the district.

Member Spatz attended the West Cook meeting where the presentation was on childhood trauma.

Member Spatz, Liebl and Broy attended the recent special Board meeting where eight to 10 presentations were shared by some of the instructional coaches. It was noted that a lot of good things are going on in the district.

Member Spatz reminded the Board that he will not be in attendance during the April 9, 2019 Board meeting.

Member Broy expressed interest in knowing more about the Spanish Immersion program. She shared that she attended a coffee talk recently where the topic was brought up, and she expressed the need to have more information so she can give better answers to the questions that are raised. Particularly, she would like to know what the district's thoughts are about the program; is the district considering expanding the program, and what are the costs associated with the program? She explained that there is a void of information and she is trying to understand without having enough knowledge to fill in the blanks. Dr. Kelley explained that the Spanish Immersion program was designed 25 years ago. Back then, it was innovative. She questioned if thought was given back then as to what the program would look like 30 years later. She suggested that the community explore a variety of ways that it could have a language program at the K-5 level, and not simply expand the existing program, although, this decision would be made by the Board. Dr. Kelley assured the Board that all families in the Spanish Immersion program will be grandfathered in for one more year.

Dr. Kelley explained that administration has no intention of expanding or exploring what a second language program would look like, but does plan to continue with the five collective actions and the direction of the newly approved equity policy. Interest was expressed in seeing what was on the original list of priorities and what was taken off. Interest was expressed in knowing why the program is not offered at other schools and if the Spanish Immersion students are placed higher in middle school and high school. Concern was expressed that the Spanish Immersion program does not meet the requirements of the equity policy. It was noted that the Lincoln School principal who initiated the Spanish Immersion program was a former Spanish teacher, and the equity policy needs to be considered. It was noted that the expansion of the foreign language program was part of the 2011 referendum initiatives, and was accomplished by introduction of the FLES program.

It was suggested that the current Board be asked for recommendations on how to implement the equity policy.

Dr. Warke was acknowledged for taking member Broy on a tour of the Word Units of Study program in action.

AGENDA MAINTENANCE

The draft agenda for the April 9, 2019 Board meeting was reviewed and revisions were recommended.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Spurlock declared the meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Board President

Board Secretary