



**Oak Park District 97 Board of Education  
January 26, 2010**

*Denise Sacks, Observer*

The meeting began at 7:08PM and took place in the Beye School auditorium. All board members and the Superintendent were present at the beginning of the meeting, but Michelle Harton left during the meeting.

Two parents made public comments expressing concern about the district's commitment to diversity, especially minority hiring and elimination of the achievement gap.

Brooks Middle School Principal Tom Sindelar presented a proposal developed by the Brooks School Improvement Team (SIT) to change the schedule at Brooks. In order to structure the learning day in a manner that fits with the goals as outlined in the Strategic Plan, the proposal entails adding math to the courses that students take with their team and providing almost 90 minutes of Literature Skills and Language Arts for each student all three years. The proposal was well received by the board, and Mr. Sindelar and the Brooks SIT will be communicating with their school community about this proposal and working toward implementation next year.

Dr. Kevin Anderson, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning presented the Academic Performance and Discipline Update to the Board. The Update covers the first trimester of this year. Principals and teachers will be using the academic data to help them identify students who are not achieving, especially in preparation for the ISAT tests. The suspension numbers were slightly worse than last year, but there are about 100 more students in the district. There was some discussion about whether the behavior system, PBIS, is helping. Dr. Anderson also provided some information about the academic scores for students who participate in summer school. Participation in the district's summer school does not appear to improve student scores in relation to their peers. The administration is discussing whether the money that is used for the district's three-week summer school program could be used to assist those students during the school year in a manner that would result in improved performance.

The policy committee of the Board presented a draft policy for use of security cameras at the middle schools. The Board asked that the policy committee determine if Freedom of Information Act issues needed to be addressed within the policy and to consider language that might further limit the use of the cameras for monitoring students. The committee will report to the Board again and then the administration will need to delineate procedures for the cameras usage based on the policy. Board member Jim Gates reiterated that the purpose of the cameras is to enhance safety for the students and staff and to improve security for the buildings and property.

The meeting ended at 10:40.

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