



**Oak Park District 97 Board of Education
July 13, 2010**

Denise Sacks, Observer

All Board members present, except members Jim Gates and Michelle Harton. New Superintendent, Dr. Albert Roberts, was in attendance.

The meeting started at 7:17 p.m. The meeting opened with two special reports, the Multi-Cultural Center report and the Student Performance report. Ms. Allen reported on the activities of the Multi-Cultural Center this year including: 94 visits by her to classrooms; 10 larger group presentations; 44 visits by classes to the Center; new teacher orientation; U97 Holocaust Class; cultural mediation; partnerships with universities, community groups, and government groups; and student achievement programs. Dr. Anderson reported on Student Performance and Discipline data for the year. His reports determined that free/reduced lunch and African American subgroups continue to struggle. Although these groups are making progress in math and reading, they are not catching up to their peers. In 4th and 5th grade math, these groups are not, on average, meeting standards. The details of these reports can be seen on the District website, in the Board of Education section under Board Packets.

The Board adopted a Tentative Budget for FY11. Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, Therese O'Neill, presented the proposed budget for 2010-2011 along with actual revenue and spending data from 2009-2010. The revenue shortfall from this past year was \$4,716,758 which was almost all funds owed to the District by the State of Illinois that have not been paid. The District managed to under spend its budget last year by \$3,292,051 making the overall shortfall \$1,424,707. In the Tentative Budget for 2010-2011, the proposed expenditures of all funds is .83% greater than the proposed expenditures for last year, but about 5% more than was actually spent last year. The proposed revenues that the District expects to receive in all funds for next year is 1.17% less than last year's budgeted amount, but 5.18% more than was actually received this year. The Board will be reviewing 5-year projections at the August 24th Board meeting. That information will be essential to understanding the referendum decision by District 97. More details of the Tentative Budget can be found on the District website. There will be a Public Hearing on the Budget at the September 14th meeting and the Budget is scheduled to be adopted at the September 28th meeting.

A proposed change in the wording of the District's "Gift Policy" was discussed and will be voted on at the next meeting. Community concerns about equity among the schools prompted these changes. Dr. Roberts stated that he and Chris Jascula would examine the procedures related to this policy. Dr. Roberts noted that consistent application of the procedures across the District is essential for achieving the goals of the policy.

The Board discussed a report from the Referendum Planning Team. The Board discussed several topics. Guidelines for the behavior of Board members and employees of the District must be made clear to all involved. The administration and the Board of Education should share information and provide facts to the community. A citizen committee must do advocacy for the referendum. A message needs to be developed by the District that includes, but is not limited to, an explanation of

the structural deficit, a demonstration of effective financial stewardship by District 97, the implications of passing and not passing the referendum, the continuing impact of the actions of the State of Illinois. A tentative timeline of essential dates has been set, including the date of November 16th for a first reading of staff reduction recommendations in the event the referendum fails and a January 11th date for the actual vote on the precise wording of the referendum question. The election will be on April 5th. The importance of community-wide participation and communication was discussed as well as the desire to make the process as transparent as possible.

An inter-governmental agreement with the Village for crossing guard service was discussed. In the agreement, District 97 would be responsible for no more than \$168,000 toward the cost of paying for the crossing guards. The Village would administer the program and be responsible for the costs associated with that administration. Some Board members do not believe that the District should bear any of the burdens for the crossing guards, as it is a public safety issue. The Village is negotiating the crossing guard contract. Votes by both Boards on the agreement will be taken in the near future.

The meeting adjourned at 11:06 p.m.

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