



**Oak Park District 97 Board of Education
February 8, 2011**

Peggy Kell, Observer

School Board members Peter Traczyk, Michelle Harton, Bob Spatz, Jim Gates and Rance Clouser were in attendance. Board Members Peter Barber and Jennifer Reddy were absent. The board reconvened after an Executive Session at 6:30pm.

There was no public comment

Special Reports

1. John Hodge, Principal of Irving School, led a group of parents in a presentation of the World Language Program at their school. The following languages are taught by parents: German, Spanish, Mandarin, Arabic, French and Italian. This Kindergarten -5th grade program enrolls about 60 students and is taught at lunch on Monday and Thursday or Tuesday and Thursday after school. Time taught is one hour per week for 12-15 weeks. Instructors are native speakers emphasizing the cultural aspect of the languages. Scholarships are offered for students that cannot afford the tuition. The Board asked some questions of the panel, then thanked them for their program dedication and informative presentation.

2. A presentation by John Williams of the Township, on the FACE-IT program will be rescheduled.

3. The last presentation was on the District's Teacher Mentoring Program. In addition to Kevin Anderson, Director of Teaching and Learning, program managers Lynne Beauprez and Faith Cole talked about the eleven year old program. Both Beauprez and Cole work with about 30 teachers(there are 56 new staff this year). The program focuses on staff development for brand new and experienced teachers. They do not evaluate these non-tenured members but give them support and guidance on how to become better teachers and understand the "Oak Park" way of teaching. The induction program includes a Best Practices class held every month and building mentors for additional support. The leaders also talked about future goals for the program: more support for all non-tenured teachers, more time for peer and master teacher observations. The Board asked questions and made comments about the program and it's importance. The Superintendent commented about more data collection from the program itself to affirm it is working and being beneficial.

Action Items:

The minutes from 1/16, 1/18, and 1/25/11 were adopted.

The Bill List and Related Report was approved.

The school calendar for the 2011-2012 was adopted.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Roberts commended the staff on the recent snow removal around the schools. He was thanked for the early notice of school closings and the way everyone was notified.

Trish Carlson, Director of Human Resources, will be meeting with RIFed(Reduction in Force) teachers to walk them through what will be happening before the referendum vote in April. He believes also we should emphasize the positives of what the referendum will bring if passed. Finally, he will be working with Felicia Starks, Grants and Alternative Education, on cleaning up the discipline procedures for students in the district.

Board Concerns: Board members shared meeting dates of various committees and symposiums that they will be attending, along with announcements and congratulations about various awards and activities in the district.

The meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 9:14pm.

The next Board meeting will be February 22, 2011.

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