

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS™ OAK PARK / RIVER FOREST



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

Peggy Kell, Observer

All school Board members were in attendance: Peter Traczyk, Michelle Harton, Bob Spatz, Jim Gates, Rance Clouser, Peter Barber and Jennifer Reddy

The board reconvened after an Executive Session.

Special Reports

Diana Pingle and Bill McGlynn, middle school coaches for the West 40 Speech Team, presented two students that did their competition speeches for the board and audience. They did a great job!

Kristine Raino and Jackie Zdiarski, two parents from the Middle School and 5th Drug Awareness Committee made a presentation. This committee was formed in February 2010 to discuss and address teen alcohol and substance abuse. The Middle School Action Committee was one of several community action teams created to support overall effort of substance abuse prevention and parent education. Forums will be held to give parents and their children information.

Public Comment

There were nine adults and two middle schoolers that spoke during public comment. They directed their comments to support of teachers and programs that would be cut if the referendum does not pass.

Action Items

Trish Carlson, Human Resource Director, came to the table to talk about the impending cuts. She gave definitions to the board around staff tenure, reduction in force, probation, non-tenured, release, and non-renewal. The board felt this information would help the audience understand the upcoming action on personnel items. These actions will be taken to reduce costs since the referendum vote will not be until April 5 and staff needs notice 60 days before the end of the school year.

The board passed the minutes from the February 22, 2011 meeting.

The board then read and passed all the personnel items: Non-Renewal of Administrative Contracts and Reassignment of Administrators, Non-Renewal of Assistant Superintendent contract, Release of Tenured Teacher, Honorable Dismissal of Teachers, Non-Reemployment of Fourth Year Probationary Teachers, Non-Reemployment of Probationary Teachers, and Non-Reemployment of Partial Assignment Teachers.

The Board also passed the OPTA side letter of understanding about the certified staff pay freeze.

Finance

The bill list, engagement letter for the fiscal year audit, fund transfer resolutions and capital project bid for asbestos abatement removal were all approved.

Topic Reports

Chris Jascula discussed with the board the first reading for a classroom visit policy. Discussion items: make sure parental approval is gotten for video projects, expectation of privacy in public plays or performances, consistency in time allotted for visits.

Concluding Items

The Superintendent evaluation format sheet was given to board members who will fill them out and return them to Peter Traczyk.

Bob Cohen of the school district's law firm talked to the board about the wording of the referendum language re the \$38 per \$1,000 of EAV. The wording was recommended by the bond counsel Chapman and Cutler and followed statute. Chapman and Cutler wrote the language for the law itself, so the board and community should feel confident that the wording is correct.

The Board thanked the many people who made public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25pm.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be March 22, 2011.

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