

Oak Park Elementary School District 97

February 14, 2017

League member Observer: Leigh Eicher

Meeting Start 7:00pm

Roll Call: Attendees: Dr. Carol Kelley- Superintendent, Jim Gates- Board President, Amy Felton- Vice President, Sheryl Mariner- Secretary, Graham Brisben, Robert Spatz, Holly Spurlock, and Jim O'Connor

Absent: Ruppa Datta

I. PUBLIC:

A. Public Comment:

i. There were seven members of the public that had comments regarding Ms. Cathy Hamilton, Principal at Lincoln School. Ms. Hamilton previously requested to retire at the end of the 2017 school year, but due to a state retirement program no longer being offered, she has requested to continue as principal for next 3 years. The D97 board has denied request. Public expressed its concern that the board will not allow Ms. Hamilton to continue as principal after 25 years of service. The D97 school board has offered to let Ms. Hamilton return, but only as a substitute teacher. The parents and educators expressed concern as this situation doesn't make sense. Many expressed that there are unanswered questions why the board would not consider keeping Ms. Hamilton on as the principal for the next 3 years. The community does not feel heard, but will continue to attend the board meetings until there are answers. Teachers from Whittier, Hatch and Beye expressed concern that the educators do not have support of the board and that there is a lack of trust. One speaker expressed that the situation does not fit the Oak Park we know and doesn't make sense.

B. A parent from Whittier elementary expressed that she would be pulling her 2 kids from participating in the PARQ test. The amount time of spent on testing is too much.

C. Referendum Report: Attached Information regarding Operating Reductions was discussed. Dr. Kelley and Dr. Evans reviewed the reductions that would need to take place if the Operating Referendum would fail. Dr. Kelley emphasized this was not a scare tactic and this is the realistic situation if the operating referendum should not pass on April 4th. If this operating referendum would fail it would require another 2018-2019 referendum to be raised, but at that point it would be a 50% bigger ask as it would be a larger hole to dig out of. It was expressed that 80% of budget are staff expenses so staff cuts would be the only possible way to meet the cuts needed.

· How did we get here from 2011 last referendum to now?

o There has been a surge enrollment as often the number one reason for moving to Oak Park is the schools and public education.

o The declining revenue because there is ceiling on property tax, and we receive 70% of schools revenue from property taxes

o Since 2012 the state's dysfunction has caused a loss of \$9 million that will not be recovered, and ongoing state funding is unknown and in flux.

· There are planned community meetings to discuss the Referendum. There will be a Town Hall on February 27th at 7pm at Hatch and March 1st at 7pm at OPRF High School.

II. Action Items:

Meeting Minutes and Consent Agenda - All items were granted unanimously by board

General Approval of the Demographic Study RFP, Approval of Surety Bonds, Approval of Summer 2017 Work bid and Approval of Transportation RFP all approved.

III. Board Assignments

A. Board Committee Follow Ups:

FORC - (Finance Oversight and Review Committee) – is a member short, 10 applications received. Next Meeting 24Oct201

IGOV – Candidate forum held. 48 people attended from the 6 taxing bodies. Next meeting will be held March 18th.

CLAIM – There have been 2 resignations and committee in process of filling vacancies.

Committee for Community Engagement – Committee had a great number of applicants from the community. Chosen applicants have been notified and so far 4 of the 7 have accepted. A kick off will be scheduled in the next 2-4 weeks.

Retreat Planning Update - School Board retreat will be held on 13-Mar-2017.

IV. Administrative Items - Action expected to be approved at 28-Feb-2017 meeting

A. 2018-2019 District Calendar – Moving parent teacher conferences from MLK Jr. Weekend to 25-Jan-2019 due to MAPP testing. All major holidays were aligned with District 200 calendar.

B. Custodial Supply Bids - Review of cost of all custodial supplies (i.e. tissues, trash bags, etc.).

C. Donation of Laptops – Sales Force Inc to donate 100-200 Macbook Pro laptops that are 1-3 years old. District will still continue to refresh devices as needed. Company plans to make this an annual donation.

D. Landscaping Bid- McAdam contract ends 30Jun2017. Could see if Park District interested in partnering further as the fields' care is already split as an intergovernmental agreement.

E. Insurance Consultant Contract

V. Concluding Items

A. Board Remarks –

i. Holly Spurlock had update on Irving Turf field. – This has been discussed with Jan Arnold and PTO of Irving. It would cost \$60,000 to replace the field completely. There is a lack of scientific evidence, and the toxicology results show that the concerns for toxins are far below the requirements. There is an option to replace the top layer of fill on the field. This option would cost \$18,000 if Cool Play is used and would require the top layer be vacuumed up and replaced. Cool Play is a synthetic mix of minerals and polymers and would be green and helps keeps field temperatures down. Not same as rubber like that used in Nike Grind. FAC confirmed it had no interest in being involved. Holly will summarize findings and prepare a presentation. Further decisions likely to wait until after the referendum vote.

ii. Jim Gates announced that Brooks and Julian both had winning teams in the Robotics Tournament that was held on February 4th. Percy Julian will now hold the State Championship Robotics tournament on March 4th.

VI. Adjournment – 8:59pm

