

Oak Park Elementary School District 97

April 26, 2017

League Member Observer: Ameri Klafeta

Meeting Start 7:03 p.m.

Roll Call: Attendees: Dr. Carol Kelley- Superintendent (by phone), Jim Gates- Board President, Amy Felton- Vice President, Sheryl Mariner- Secretary, Graham Brisben, Robert Spatz, Holly Spurlock, Rupa Datta, and Jim O'Connor (by phone). New members: Keecia Broy, Katherin Murray-Liebl, Rob Breymaier.

I. PUBLIC

A. Public Comment

- i. A D97 substitute who was terminated does not believe it was fairly done. She requested that the board investigate, expunge her record, and provide a letter of recommendation.
- ii. A Brooks arts teacher spoke and was accompanied by several other teachers. She expressed concern the arts were used as grounds to justify the referenda and asked the board to keep in mind what values it will foster regarding the arts. For example, threatened cuts to the arts were used to justify the last referendum, but at the middle school level, the IB program cut into arts time. She also expressed concern that arts teachers are not part of the discussion regarding specials schedules.
- iii. Another D97 employee asked the Board why one of her colleagues was subject to a RIF when the referenda passed, and why it was not at a public hearing. She requested that the board not just talk the talk, but walk the walk with respect to world languages and arts. She also expressed concern that the Board's approval of \$1 million in expenditures just one week after the referenda vote was ill-timed and not fully vetted.
- iv. The owner of Eastgate Café asked for basketball hoops to be reinstalled at the grade school level.
- v. Two Brooks parents expressed concern over violence and bullying at that school.
- vi. A D97 parent told the Board she was surprised and disheartened to learn of the cuts to the CAST program at Julian after the referenda. These cuts were not communicated in any of the documents before the referenda. She also stated that there is a lack of understanding of what the CAST program does and how it is consistent with D97's goals.

II. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Meeting Minutes and Consent Agenda – All items were approved unanimously.
- B. The Board adopted a resolution authorizing membership in the Educational Benefits Cooperative. This allows school districts to join together for the purposes of purchasing insurance. The benefits committee is concerned about the performance of self-funded insurance plans. Through the EBC, increases would be lower for PPO, and higher for the HMO.

III. BOARD REORGANIZATION

- A. The election results were certified, and the new members were sworn in.

IV. BOARD ASSIGNMENTS

- A. The CLAIM committee's equity working group is revamping itself.

V. ADJOURNMENT OF THE OLD BOARD

- A. Adjourned at 8:57.

VI. NEW BOARD CONVENED

- A. Convened at 9:15
- B. Holly Spurlock was nominated as President. Jim O'Connor was nominated as vice-president.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- A. Leadership Role Committee Recommendation. Expected action at May 9, 2017 meeting. This is to approve roles, not to fill them. The OPTA Collective Bargaining Agreement establishes leadership roles. The group made recommendations regarding summer school, with the Oak Park Educational Foundation taking over grades 3-5.

Meeting End 9:55 p.m.