

Oak Park Elementary School District 97

June 27, 2017

League Member Observer: Ameri Klafeta

Meeting Start 7:00 pm

I. PUBLIC

A. Public Comment

- i. An Oak Park parent and former administrator of the multicultural center expressed concerns that multicultural education is becoming viewed as a luxury we cannot afford. She stated that the multicultural collection belongs to schools and should remain with the schools. She also stated that concern for equity has always been part of this community and should remain so. She also provided the board with some materials to use going forward, including new teacher orientation materials with a multicultural piece, a religious calendar so people will not schedule events on high holy days out of respect for all community, and a book called "If She Only Knew Me."

B. The Board recognized the District 97 retirees.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

A. Discussion on Upcoming Tax Bill

- i. Property tax bill coming out next week. Ali El Saffar, the Oak Park Township Assessor, discussed that the increase will be higher than expected because of how the state tax equalizer works. Although the community approved \$13.3 million for the operations referendum, the end result is \$15.9 million.
- ii. El Saffar spoke to Board about what it wanted to do with extra \$2.6 million.
- iii. The options are (1) to have a vendor send refunds out or (2) to reconcile the extra money on fall tax bill.
 1. The refund can be done with individual applications, but a lot of administration. A mass refund is easier and cheaper, but creates potential for errors because it is not always known who paid the bill. Dr. Evans stated that the District's attorney cautioned that the District may not have statutory authority for this.
 2. The second option is to reduce levy next year. The Board expressed concern that this creates a public relations issue because the 12% is a steep increase. It may also create problems when the property tax freeze hits.
 3. Attorney advises using it to pay down debt. Abate 2017 tax levy for the 1999 referendum bond. Then taxpayers even next year. Would be dollar for dollar.
- iv. The Board supports a refund, pending investigation. It asked the administration to investigate the cost and time of the refund process and the application process (Broy, Datta, Murray-Leibl, O'Connor). Spatz and Breymaier favored investigating cost, but having paperwork ready to do an abatement at the next meeting. There was also mention of asking the attorneys if the tax refund could somehow be done through intergovernmental agreement (i.e. can D97 transfer it to the Village and have it refund the money somehow?)
- v. The Board will release a statement to the Wednesday Journal to get ahead of this. The plan is to take some action on July 18.

III. BOARD RETREAT WORK SESSION

A. **Budget 101** The Board participated in an exercise balancing a hypothetical budget.

B. Development of Board Goal for SY18 A facilitator worked with the Board regarding developing goals for the upcoming year.

- i. The facilitator set out areas to discuss what people wanted: (1) three things important to each person, (2) clarity of roles and boundaries of board members vs. administration, (3) onboarding of new members – spreading out process, identifying roles, desire to help new members understand context of what happened before without rehashing, tenured members seeing value of new ideas.
- ii. The facilitator led a general discussion around the Board being informed enough to do its job vs. leaving things to the experts. The Board discussed the need for the administration’s 2-3 year goals so the Board can align its goals. They also discussed the need for communication with the community – what is going well, what the community is concerned about.
- iii. By September, the Board would like to have the communications and community engagement committee recommendations for reaching people. Dr. Kelley is to set out the 3-year vision in August. The Board will also map out its work sessions.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Meeting Minutes and Consent Agenda – All items were approved unanimously.
- B. Appointment of Senior Director of Equity – Pushed to the July 18 meeting.
- C. Appointment of Director of Organizational Learning — Pushed to the July 18 meeting.

V. CONCLUDING ITEMS

A. Board Remarks

- i. Broy asked about ensuring that time estimates on the agenda are approximated so people can be aware when items are being discussed.

B. Agenda Maintenance

- i. The next meeting will have a budget discussion.

Meeting End 10:20 pm