

APPROVED MINUTES - JOINT BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF OAK PARK
BOARD OF OAK PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #97
BOARD OF OAK PARK-RIVER FOREST HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT #200

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH, 2013 AT 7:00 P.M.
OAK PARK-RIVER FOREST HIGH SCHOOL
201 N. SCOVILLE, EAST LIBRARY

PRESENT

Village of Oak Park – President Anan Abu-Taleb; Trustees Peter Barber, Colette Lueck and Adam Salzman; Village Manager Cara Pavlicek

School District #97 –President Bob Spatz; Members Graham Brisben, Jim Gates, Jim O’Connor, Denise Sacks, and Peter Traczyk, Superintendent Al Roberts

School District #200 –President John Phelan; Members Thomas Cofsky, Steven Gevinson, Ralph Lee, Jackie Moore, Sharon Patchak-Layman and Jeff Weissglass; Superintendent Steven Isoye

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL OF EACH BOARD

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 P.M. by each of the three boards.

AGENDA APPROVAL

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

COLLABORATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD GOVERNING BOARD REPORT

President Peter Barber reported that he had been elected President, Jeff Weissglass Vice President and Amy Felton Secretary of the Governing Board. Teresa Powell will serve as recording secretary during Mr. Barber’s term. The next two meetings are scheduled for February 5 and May 7. The February 5 meeting will address expansion possibilities with possible addition of other members and possible structure and process, as well as budget review. Topics for the May 7 meeting are still in development.

Theresa O’Neill, Administrator for D97 is the financial administrator for CEC. She reported that the CEC has not used the full budget as proposed and may not need to bill taxing bodies for full amounts at this time. Three accounts have been established, with payment due by July 1 and January 1. Invoices are prepared by November 1 and May 1 and will be submitted to her, then to entities by November 15 for payment. Invoices were prepared, will be received prior to end of this calendar year.

COLLABORATION ANNUAL REPORT

Carolyn Newberry Schwartz, Executive Director of the CEC, introduced Carolina Song, President of the Board of the CEC, who presented the Collaboration’s Annual Report. She noted that since Dr. James Heckman spoke in 2012 about the case for public investment in our children, this idea has become a widespread topic of national discussion. Ms. Song noted other Board members who will present additional information at this meeting, and then noted that the Professional Development Committee is now meeting to plan a 2014 symposium to provide high-quality low-cost continuing education for childcare providers. She spoke about the 2013 symposium, Community: Building Relationships in Early Childhood and the importance of including home-based

childcare providers who provide the bulk care for infants. The focus of the symposium on social-emotional learning provides the basis for academic and “soft” skills development. She noted the publication of the guidebook for parents, “Watch and Help Me Grow: Developmental Milestones Birth to Five,” and thanked the many volunteers who have contributed technical skills and expertise to the Collaboration. Leverage allows local, regional and national impact.

David Weidling presented the financial report, first to the audit ending June 30, 2013, reported as a clean audit. It was recommended that foundation grants should be recognized at the time of commitment, rather than receipt and this change is being made. Budget vs. Actual was presented and reviewed, and charitable donations were noted. The balance sheet was reviewed.

Eric Gershonson reported on home visits and parent support through early childhood services. He reviewed the selection process which identified Parenthesis as a partner through an RFP process, and referred to enclosed contracts defining the services to be provided by Parenthesis and the Birth to Three Institute of the Ounce of Prevention Fund. Home visiting and broader parent support programs will begin in February. He reviewed the goals of these programs.

Debbie McCann presented the report on the Unified Early Childhood Database under direction of Measurement and Evaluation Committee, to focus on outcome measures. She discussed the sources of data, including data sources already established and conversion of this data to meaningful information. They issued a Request for Information (RFI) to establish a baseline and meaningful measures. They received 10 responses, which was very positive and sought one aligned with the CEC. They selected Chapin Hall’s Center for Early Childhood Research, based in Hyde Park, which focuses on social science research for children, families and communities. She discussed the process for identifying what elements are important to measure. The contract is now being executed, and baseline measures are soon to be established and measures of progress.

Ann Courter reported on development screening and work with local physicians. She referred to the job description for a Developmental Screening Network Coordinator now in the process of being hired. She also stressed the importance of early screening to identify and address problems.

Mr. Phelan noted that he thinks of the CEC as issues come before his Board, such as the success of students who engage in extra-curricular activities versus those who don’t and the backgrounds that encourage students to be involved or not. He is grateful for the work of the CEC. He also asked about upcoming milestones of the CEC.

Ms. Newberry Schwartz talked about upcoming deadlines in February and other initiatives mentioned in the above reported. Ms. McCann noted that Exhibit B of the database contract has specific goals to be accomplished by Chapin Hall. Year 2 will align all of the data to connect it; with new data to be added and regular reports generated in Year 3. Ms. Patchak-Layman asked about baseline data .Ms. Newberry Schwartz discussed sources of data now available and challenges of access to and integration of data.

Ms. McCann noted that Chapin Hall can help CEC evaluate the quality of data being accessed. She discussed the need for more structured data (check boxes) versus extensive

use of “Other” as a response. Chapin Hall is excited about linkages with local school data collection and how to link various sources for meaningful data. The lead researcher, based in Evanston, is very interested in how this will work. By year 3 or 4 more detailed reports will be available.

Mr. Abu-Taleb thanked the CEC for their work and asked if District 97 will also be contacted about joining the effort. This will be part of the discussion of the Governing Board in February. Ms. McCann also noted that some early information may be available in 2014, as noted in the specific milestones of the contract.

Ms. Newberry Schwartz noted that there’s a plan to work with the State of Illinois on a quality rating system to help monitor and achieve a certain level. Ms. McCann noted the challenges of even getting a percentage showing children served when no real time data is available providing the total number of children in Oak Park; something that has a lag time of several years.

Mr. Phelan noted that the feeder districts and high school are working together to begin to know how many children are part of the school system. Ms. Patchak-Layman asked about how children are tracked between the various districts. Ms. Newberry Schwartz explained that an interagency data sharing system is being developed while parental release and HIPAA regulations limit some sharing.

Mr. O’Connor asked about engagement and lessons learned. Ms. Newberry Schwartz noted that the groups are fully engaged and that we are at the beginning of learning what we need to do, data to collect to make things concrete and meaningful.

Dr. Roberts noted that the Strive and the OPRF Community Foundation works on social-emotional learning. Mr. Weissglass noted that together they support “Success of all youth” from cradle to career learning and programs inside and outside of schools for a continuum of learning.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked about the 2009 Strategic Plan and benchmarks set at that time. How will these be updated and re-evaluated? Mr. Gershonson noted that the original benchmarks set in 2009 have evolved and become more sophisticated over the past several years. Ms. Newberry Schwartz added that the basic strategy of professional development, home visits remains basically the same, as the goals were broadly written. Mr. Phelan noted that this has been an embryonic year as baselines are being developed.

CALL TO THE BOARD

Mr. Phelan asked for questions from the Board, and noted that the Governing Board already has some direction.

Mr. Salzman asked about data triangulation and noted that he is pleased with current work with Chapin Hall. Ms. McCann explained that Chapin Hall has other sources of information that can help shed light on this. Dr. Moore noted several sources of data that Chapin Hall has available. Mr. Abu-Taleb noted that the question of “how many” is followed by the location of those children. Ms. Newberry Schwartz discussed several sources of data.

Mr. Weissglass also noted the importance of qualitative components and stories are important. Dr. Moore discussed issues that impact outcomes, including family structure, employment issues, quality of life and other benchmarks. Ms. Newberry Schwartz noted that these are part of the database, as well as income, emotional and violence issues.

Ms. Song noted the state Maternal-Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECH-V) which our community does not qualify for due to income limits, but which provides helpful information for us.

Ms. Lueck noted the importance of outreach strategies in building a sense of engagement with parents and welcoming their input.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked about getting notice of these and Governing Board meetings to the public, and this was noted as something to be aware of.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cathy Kern, Executive Director of Parenthesis, noted that this is an historic moment and thanked the governmental bodies for their faith in the ability of Parenthesis to deliver services.

Mr. O'Connor thanked the high school for hosting tonight's meeting.

ADJOURN

It was moved and seconded to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M. Wednesday, November 20, 2013.

SUBMITTED AND RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF:

Teresa Powell, Village Clerk