



Village of Oak Park

123 Madison Street
Oak Park, Illinois 60302
www.oak-park.us

Meeting Minutes

President and Board of Trustees

Thursday, December 5, 2019

7:00 PM

OPRF High School - North Cafeteria
201 N Scoville Avenue, Oak Park

Joint Board Meeting of School District 97, School District 200 and the Village Board with the Collaboration for Early Childhood. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in the North Cafeteria and Oak Park and River Forest High School, 201 N Scoville Ave, Oak Park, IL.

I. Call to Order

D200 Board member Sara Dixon Spivy called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Roll Call - Oak Park Elementary District #97

Present: Board members Rob Breymaier, Cheree Moore, Katherine Murray-Liebl, and Board President Keecia Broy.

Also present: Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier

Roll Call - Oak Park and River Forest District #200

Present: Board members Matt Baron, Craig Iseli (7:20 p.m.), Gina Harris, Ralph Martire, and Sara Dixon Spivy.

Also present: Superintendent Joylynn Pruitt-Adams

Roll Call - Village of Oak Park

Present: Trustees Simone Boutet, Susan Buchanan, Arti Walker-Peddakotla, and President Abu-Taleb.

Also present: Village Manager Cara Pavlicek, and Village Clerk Vicki Scaman.

II. Public Comment

There was none.

III. A Community -Wide Look at Early Childhood, 2019

As Chair of the IGA Board working with the Early Childhood Collaboration,

Trustee Arti Walker-Peddakotla Chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Early Childhood Collaboration Executive Director John Borrero provided an overview perspective of the work conducted by the Early Childhood Collaboration and introduced key staff and accomplishments.

Mr. Borrero asked that agenda Item B. Financial Report be reviewed before agenda Item A. A Community-Wide Look at Early Childhood, 2019. Trustee Walker-Peddakotla introduced agenda Item B.

A. [ID 19-366](#)

A Community-Wide Look at Early Childhood, 2019

- **No Small Matter clip and discussion**
- **Collaboration for Early Childhood work in Oak Park and River Forest**

Mr. Borrero introduced the producer of "No Small Matters", Rachel Giannini. Rachel and her family live in Oak Park. Her film highlighted the crucial need for and challenges finding affordable quality early childhood care and education. Ms. Giannini shared three clips from her film. Clip #1 focused on child care needs of today and the importance for early learning. Clip #2 shared the reality of a significant opportunity gap for families with greater financial resources that translates to an achievement gap throughout a child's educational career. Clip #3 defines toxic stress and the effect on learning potential and health.

IV. Financial Report

B. [ID 19-367](#)

Financial Report

- a. FY2019 Year End Financial Statements**
- b. FY2020 October Year-to-Date Reports**
- c. Administrative Agent Report and IGA Administrative Fund**

Early Childhood Collaboration Board member David Weindling shared that the Early Childhood Collaboration ("Collaboration") audit is complete and received positive feedback. The Collaboration has a healthy cash balance equaling a three month reserve. A staff vacancy has left the collaboration spending less than originally anticipated which resulted in invoicing partners less. The collaboration does anticipate invoicing for research expenses in the coming months.

Additionally, the Collaboration has been successful in seeking grant funding for programs. The collaboration is seeking a Development Director to continue those efforts as well as increasing private donors and developing a marketing plan to spread awareness of resources and support available through the collaboration for all providers and families of young children.

Mr. Weindling responded to questions of members of the tri-board related

to development and enrollment. Mr. Borrero shared that the collaboration did face challenges in building trust with families regarding home visits but once that trust is garnered they were able to maintain a positive relationship.

V. Informational Items

C. [ID 19-368](#)

Informational Items

- **2019 Collaboration Report to the IGA Governing Body (November 2019)**

Mr. Borrero highlighted how the work of the Early Childhood Collaboration has evolved. The "Report to the IGA Governing Board" began with the history of the collaboration and used research and data to identify key findings regarding areas of inquiry into the lives of children age five and under in the Village of Oak Park.

Highlights from screening of children age five and under, (IGA report, pg. 44):

- In 2019, 1,969 Oak Park and River Forest children were screened for developmental concerns and social/emotional issues.
- This number represents a 10% increase from the 2018 number (1,781).
- 653 children scored as "monitor" or "refer" on the developmental screen.
- 169 children scored as "monitor" or "refer" on the social/ emotional screen.
- 1,435 children were screened for vision issues.
- 1,375 children were screened for hearing issues.
- 52% of children who were referred for further assessment due to concerns identified through the vision screening received treatment.
- 61% of children who were referred for further assessment due to concerns identified through the hearing screening received treatment.

Highlights regarding readiness for kindergarten, (IGA report, pg. 45):

- In 2019, 94% of preschoolers who attended publicly funded schools took the kindergarten Readiness Test upon entry to kindergarten.
- This number is greatly increased from 2014, when 77% of preschoolers who attended publicly funded preschools had taken the Kindergarten Readiness Test upon entry to kindergarten.
- In 2019, 82% of preschoolers who attended publicly funded schools were scored as proficient in the areas tested by the KRT.
- This number is a great improvement over the last three years, where proficiency levels were 72%, 68% and 63%, respectively.

Highlights from results of home visiting, (IGA report, pg. 47):

- Since 2016, Easterseals has had 141 referrals with an enrollment rate of 47%. (According to the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program, long-term national retention rates for home

visiting programs average between 10% and 20%)

- They have made 200 referrals for additional services including early intervention.
- The percentage of families retained for 2018-2019 was 68%.
- As of September 2019, Easterseals serves 35 families with 52 children who live in Oak Park and River Forest.

Highlights regarding family engagement strategies, (IGA report, pg. 48):

- Community Ambassadors have become leaders in outreach within Oak Park. From October 2018 through June 2019, they engaged approximately 700 caregivers and handed out more than 500 early childhood resource bags.
- There were 8,154 unduplicated visitors to the Collaboration's website in fiscal year 2018-2019.
- Approximately 3,000 Early Childhood Resource Directories were distributed to families in fiscal year 2018/2019.
- In total there were 15 parenting workshops offered in this fiscal year, at six different locations with 142 participants.

Highlights regarding assessing need for high quality preschool programs, (IGA report, pg. 49):

- 78% of OPRF Preschool Directors exceed the minimum State requirements for Preschool Directors.
- 75% of preschool teachers exceed minimum State requirements.
- 83% of assistant teachers exceed minimum State requirements.
- 69% of OPRF preschool teachers have Gateways credentials (Illinois Early Childhood Certificates).
- 81% of OPRF preschool teachers and child care providers documented more than the state mandated 15 hours of continuing professional education each year.
- 47% of OPRF preschool teachers and child care providers documented more than 20 hours of continuing professional education this year. (Staff at centers who have ExceleRate Silver or Gold ratings must have 20 or more credit hours per year).
- 70% of preschool teachers responding to the workforce survey attended a Collaboration for Early Childhood workshop or training this year.

Mr. Borrero highlighted items for further inquiry in each area and responded to questions from members of the Tri-Board. Questions related to opportunity for improved communication and collaboration between governmental partners, collecting of additional data related to trauma, increasing referrals, sharing professional development opportunities, and identifying ways that the School Boards can assist with outreach to families. D200 Board member Ralph Martire requested the Early Childhood Collaboration present actionable items for each Board to

improve outcomes. Village President Abu-Taleb left the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicki Scaman
Village Clerk