



**Finance Oversight and Review Committee  
Meeting - Feb. 15, 2023**

This Committee Meeting was held virtually and streamed live online using zoom webinar.

**Call To Order**

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.

**In Attendance**

Dr. Ushma Shah Superintendent, Venus Hurd Johnson Board Vice President, Holly Spurlock Board Member, Patrick King Senior Director of Finance, Jeff Mathis Committee Chair, Greg Glennie Vice Chair, Members Justin Erkfritz-Gay, Gregory Kolar, Hau Pho, Lonya Boose, Executive Assistant and Rob Grossi District Financial Consultant **Absent:** Dr. Felicia Starks Turner

**Public Comment**

No Public Comment was received/noted for this meeting.

**Action Item: Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the November 2, 2022 meeting were reviewed and approved.

**Motion**

Committee member Erkfritz Gay moved, seconded by member Kolar that the meeting minutes from November 2, 2022 be approved as presented. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

AYES: 5

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 0

Motion: Passed

**Committee Business**

### **1. Review of Audit Findings - FYE June 30, 2022.**

Patrick King provided FORC committee with an overview of the FYE 22 Audit Report and Findings. This presentation also included recommendations noted by the firm Baker Tilley and Associates. These results were review by FORC committee ahead of action at the Board of Education meeting on February 21, 2023. The committee whole discussed suggested changes to internal financial controls and systems. The Senior Director of Finance is working to implement those necessary steps.

### **2. Review of Abatement Recommendation**

Patrick King presented the committee with the administration's recommendation for the FY22 Tax Year. The details of the memo are outlined below.

The Illinois General Assembly passed Public Act 102-0519 in August 2021, which allows taxing bodies to recapture lost revenues paid for certain property tax appeals paid from district tax collections over the past 12 months. For Oak Park District 97, that figure is **\$981,650** in Tax Year 2022.

Without any action taken by the Board, the County will automatically extend these additional taxes to all the taxpayers of the district above the 5.0% tax levy increase that was approved by the Board in December 2022. If the Board elects to abate (eliminate) this additional tax levy, then it will need to approve an abatement resolution and file such resolution with Cook County by April 1, 2023. To provide some historical perspective, the Board of Education abated (eliminated) the 2021 Tax Year Recapture Levy in the amount of \$614,688.

Administration is again recommending that the 2022 Tax Year Recapture Levy be abated for the following reasons:

1. This revenue source is not included in our budget or long-term financial projections
2. This abatement of the tax levy will generate a one-time reduction on the District's revenue stream and will not have a perpetual impact.
3. The additional extension will impose an additional new tax of approximately \$58 (assuming \$400,000 market value home) on local taxpayers as the recapture extends amounts already paid in over the tax base a second time.
4. It is also likely that the process will cause a tax shift to the residential tax base as the largest refunds are typically paid to commercial and industrial taxpayers.

### **Motion**

Vice Chair Glennie moves, seconded by Kolar, to support the recommendations for Property Tax and Audit Findings as presented by Administration. All in favor by Voice Vote.

AYES: 5

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 0

Motion: Passed

### **Peer Group Analysis Report**

District financial consultant Rob Grossi presented the FORC committee with a peer group analysis report outlining the district's position among its peers. These categories include,

- District Finance
  - Operating Expense per pupil
  - Fund balance comparisons - Reserves
  - ISBE Financial Profile
  
- Staffing Comparisons
  - Pupil/Teacher Ratio, Average Teacher Salary
  - Administrator Ration, Average Salary
  
- Student Data Analysis
  - Assessment Data/Participation Rates - 2022 School Year

### **Concluding Remarks**

Vice Chair Glennie, in comparison to our last Peer Group Analysis report, scores and participation seems to be increasing, but we continue to underperform in areas of low-income students. Do we know why this is happening? Can we get information on curriculum and alignment?

Member Erkfritz Gay, I am grateful for all the hard work of the district through COVID and increased scores. There seems to be some trends that possibly link together. Class size, what makes sense financially in comparison to peer districts. How to maximize student learning.

Other discussion included timing of information presented to the committee in comparison to when decisions need to be made by the district.

### **Agenda Forecast**

FORC committee is scheduled to meet again on April 5, 2023. This meeting will include SY23-24 Data-Based Staffing Principles:

- Continued Small Class Sizes
- Inclusive Learning Opportunities
- Fiscal Responsibility

### **Adjournment**

The Committee Chair brings forth motion to adjourn with no further business to discuss. All are in agreement by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM.