

Oak Park River Forest League of Women Voters Eyewitness Report

Observed by: Diana Shea

Date: 2/27/2018

Meeting Length: 4 hours 35 minutes

Meeting Name: District 97 Board of Education

D97 Board Approves Superintendent's Collective Initiative Priorities for School Year 2018-2019

What did the Board decide?

- The Board approved Dr Kelley's proposed collective initiatives around student learning for 2018-2019 school year. They are as follows, in the order they were presented:
 1. Reading Curriculum & Instruction – expand for grades 3-5, how to continue to provide supportive conditions for other teachers as well (professional learning)
 2. Networking and data security – non-profits have heightened security with data
 3. Master scheduling – helping elementary buildings to have appropriate staffing and tweaks so that teachers have time that they need for collaboration. Middle Schools want to look at innovative ways to support International Baccalaureate
 4. Math intervention resources -
 5. FAR/TEAMS – Professional practices around teaming, collective efficacy has a high Hady number
 6. Middle School Behavior: Tier 1 PBIS/Culture & Climate supports
 7. Social/Emotional Support
 8. Co-teaching expansion (inclusive teaching practices)- pilot is Whittier and Irving, want to expand that, including professional development.
 9. User-friendly student information warehouse and analytics system.

What else did the Board discuss or refer to committee?

- The Board held a learning session on **Rethinking Discipline in D97**. The district has been piloting a few restorative justice disciplinary methods, which have been well received by students, parents and teachers.
- The Board held a learning session on **Strategic Communication Practices**. Senior Director of Policy, Planning and Communications shared recent initiatives with the D97 YouTube Channel.

- The D97 Board **discussed the public comments from the 2/13/18 meeting regarding the request to add the term “disability” to the equity statement.** The Board generally agreed that expanding the list of communities mentioned in the statement was a good idea for purpose of inclusion. The first public reading of the equity statement is expected at the March 13, 2018 Board Meeting with vote to follow in April.
- The Board heard a presentation from Dr Kelley on the **District Action Plan and Metrics Update.** Dr Kelley shared progress on four primary goals towards the Vision 4All (listed below). Student survey results show the district is generally meeting its targets as a whole, with Black, Hispanic, Reduced lunch and IEP student populations lagging behind the targets as individual groups.
 1. Universal Goal 1 = A known, nurtured, and celebrated LEARNER
 2. Universal Goal 2 = An empowered and passionate SCHOLAR
 3. Universal Goal 3 = A confident and passionate ACHIEVER
 4. Universal Goal 4 = A creative CRITICAL THINKER and GLOBAL CITIZEN

Unexpected Votes, Events, Testimony or Items to Watch for in the Future

- The Board expects to **discuss bond purchase** in April or May since interest rates are rising.

Any other comments or observations

- The D97 Board heard public comments regarding the shortage teachers of color.
- Dr Kelley’s presentation to the Board prompted two discussions that the Board was seemingly ill-prepared for:
 - Dr Kelley asked the Board to approve the proposed collective initiatives (without a formal vote), whereas it was not clear to the Board what was the impact of this decision.
 - Dr Kelley directly asked the Board if it will want daily PE in elementary schools for 2018-2019 school year. The Board was caught off guard by the question and unable to easily respond. At the Feb 13, 2018 meeting, the Board had decided to have follow up conversations by Fall 2018 on this topic in order to be prepared for the expiration of the current physical education waiver (June 2019), assuming that it was too late in the budget planning to discuss for 2018-2019 school year. Dr Kelly estimated that the district would need \$440,000 in funding in order to accommodate a daily PE requirement without space issues. Ultimately, the Board and Dr Kelley agreed that they will have a learning session around PE and its benefits. They will seek outside partners (area wellness groups or Park District representatives were suggested options) to speak to the Board.
- Dr Kelley attended the meeting remotely from Washington DC where she was attending a conference at George Washington University.

- During her presentation to the Board, Dr Kelley said that this has been a rough school year for her, with no further context.