

Oak Park River Forest League of Women Voters Eyewitness Report

Observed by: Ameri Klafeta

Date: November 27, 2017

Meeting Length: 2 hours, 50 mins.

Meeting Name: District 97 Board of Education

D97 Board Discusses Student Performance

What did the Board decide?

- The D97 Board approved a kindergarten classroom renovation at Lincoln, not to exceed \$60,333.
- The D97 Board approved a data sharing agreement with Housing Forward to facilitate access to services.

What else did the Board discuss or refer to committee?

- The administration presented 2016-2017 student performance to the Board. PARC performance levels have decreased from 2015 to 2017. This decline was attributed to: (1) declining participation, particularly for fourth grade and middle school students and (2) an implementation dip resulting from several curricula changes last year in the K-5 grades, which is a normal pattern following such changes.
- The Board heard a presentation on Restorative Practices in D97. Restorative practices involve opportunities for students to share, with a focus on restoring and building relationships. Training at the elementary level was done in November and will be done at the middle school level in January. A detailed description of “cargo circles” and how they are facilitated was provided.
- The administration gave the Annual Personnel and Student Data Report to the Board. Enrollment is at 6,100. Staff diversity breaks down as follows: 67% white, 25% African American, 5% Hispanic, 2% Asian, 1% multiracial. Teacher diversity breaks down as follows: 79% white, 13% African American, 4% Hispanic, 3% Asian, and 1% multiracial. There were 25 teacher retirements last year. Fewer are anticipated this year, but teachers no longer have an incentive to provide early notice of retirement so the projections are uncertain.

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

- The final 2017 tax levy was presented to the board. Action is expected at the December 19 meeting. Although not required under law, notice was to be published in the *Wednesday Journal* on December 6.
- Summer programming must be voted on by the end of the year, but had not yet been circulated to the Board. The Board planned to schedule a Board meeting to discuss programming before the December 19 meeting if there was a need. If the Board did not have any concerns or questions regarding the administrative recommendation, this meeting would be cancelled and the matter would be voted on at the December 19 meeting.
- There will be a discussion and possible decision on bond selling options at the December 19 meeting.