

Oak Park River Forest League of Women Voters Eyewitness Report

Observed by Mary Haley

Date: Dec. 21, 2017 Meeting Length: 1 hr 10 min

Meeting Name: District 200 School Board

Headline: Board Votes to Levy Without Including CPI Increase

What did the Board decide?

- Tod Altenburg, Chief School Business Officer, presented a proposed levy with a 2.91% increase to the previous year's extension. Tom Cofsky proposed an amendment to exclude the 2.1% CPI from the levy amount. Mr. Cofsky referred to the FCA recommendation four years ago to reduce the district's fund balance. As of December 2017, the district is debt free with a fund balance in excess of the board's goal. Mr. Cofsky also cited a slower rate of increase in student population than forecast, increases in local tax bills and uncertainty about the impact of the new federal tax bills as reasons to limit the levy increase to .81%. Matt Baron proposed an amendment to levy at the same rate as last year. Dr. Moore argued against this amendment stating that the district needs some cushion in the budget because of the uncertainty about state funding. This proposal failed. The board voted 6-1 to accept the amended levy amount of .81%.
- The board approved the emergency leave plan for Dr. Pruitt-Levy's medical leave.

Events and Testimony

- During public comment, a number of people including students, former students, parents and coaches asked the board to revisit a decision made by the school regarding student gymnasts. The school denied their request to represent OPRFHS in IHSA competitions although this is a common practice in Illinois. It allows these students to represent their high school without requiring any support from the school.
- Matthew Vietzen, Student Council Liaison, requested that students have input in the Imagine OPRF process. Dr. Pruitt-Adams assured him that student input will be solicited after the research phase is completed.