

Oak Park River Forest High School Board
April 27, 2017
Mary Haley, Observer

Present: Jeff Weissglass- President, Jackie Moore-Vice-President, Tom Cofsky, Steve Gevinson, Sara Dixon Spivy, Jennifer Cassell and Fred Arkin

Mr. Weissglass called the meeting to order at 7:47.

Linda Carlson was recognized for having been named as the National Physical Education Teacher of the Year. She developed R.A.D, a self-defense course required for all freshmen girls. Girls are taught strategies to deal with situations that have the potential to become dangerous. OPRFHS is the only Illinois district that requires such a course.

Public Comment: The board was praised for its commitment to improving its policy on sexual misconduct. A suggestion was made that more architects be asked to develop plans for the pool rather than relying only on Legat Architects.

Sheila Hardin, president of the Faculty Senate, asked that the board adopt the recommendations of the Culture, Climate and Behavior Committee as a working draft, noting that the faculty did not have input on it.

Consent Items: All but one item passed unanimously. Policy 7:305 passed by a vote of 5-2.

Action Items: Dr. Pruitt-Adams presented the recommendations of the Culture, Climate, and Behavior Committee, which was formed in January 2016. Its job was to recommend action plans to implement two steps in the Strategic Plan that relate to equity and supportive learning. The committee also evaluated the Code of Conduct to be sure it complies with Senate Bill 100. The recommendations of the committee for the 2017-2018 school year are to begin an annual review of the high school's culture and climate by surveying students, faculty, staff and families, to review all initiatives to improve equity implemented since 2000 and to conduct a professional audit of current restorative justice programs and to recommend improvements. Dr. Moore expressed frustration that more direct action items aren't ready for implementation. She also asked the committee to be sure that its use of terms such as equity and restorative justice is in line with the Dept. of Education's use of the terms. Sara Dixon Spivy clarified that the recommended survey was in addition to the state mandated Five Essentials Survey.

For more detailed information on this matter, go to <http://www.oprfhs.org/board-of-education/Board-Meetings.cfm>

The action items were approved unanimously.

Discussion: Districts 90, 97 and 200 will hold a joint board meeting on May 1, 2017. The purpose of the meeting is to help the districts develop similar approaches to inclusiveness and equity. The board also discussed whether or not to renew its contract with EOS (Equal Opportunity Schools), an organization that helps schools to identify students who have the potential to take AP classes but who have not enrolled in any. Over OPRFHS 200 students were identified this year and will enroll in one or more AP classes in 2017-2018. Summer sessions are scheduled to help these students be ready for the advanced classes, and a new program, Huskies Scholar Academy, will be available during the next school year to offer support and tutoring. The board discussed how the success of this venture will be measured. Among the definitions of success offered were: completing the course, taking the AP exam and scoring a grade of 3 or higher and feeling part of the community outside the classroom. The majority of the board favored renewing the EOS contract for another year.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:24.