

Oak Park River Forest League of Women Voters Eyewitness Report

Observed by: Diana Shea

Date: 10/15/2019 Meeting Length: 1 hr 40 min

Meeting Name: District 97 Board of Education

D97 Prepares for Implementation of Illinois Acceleration Act

What did the Board decide?

- The D97 Board approved a professional development plan for itself (presented at the September 24, 2019 Board Meeting).
- The D97 approved the [SY20 Desired Outcomes for Student Learning Performance and Action Plan](#) (aka Equity Plan Implementation).
- The D97 Board approved the dismissal of a tenured teacher, Deirdre Kelleher (reason was not provided).

What else did the Board discuss or refer to committee?

- The D97 Board heard [a report from Superintendent Kelley on how the district is re-imagining its GTD program](#) and how it will implement the requirements of the Illinois Acceleration Act. The acceleration requirements include single subject and whole grade acceleration for any student that qualifies. The qualification process for acceleration will be rigorous and include psychological testing. As a result, what was previously known as the GTD program (formerly 'step up' or 'pull out' models), will shift to a 'push in' model where all students will have access to differentiated learnings.

Any other comments or observations

- The D97 Board heard public comment from several parents regarding the GTD program. Concerns were expressed about equity of access to the services, as well as questions around communication and lack of understanding about what services children are getting this year relative to what they received in prior years.