

Oak Park River Forest League of Women Voters Eyewitness Report

Observed by Mary Haley

Date: August 23, 2018

Meeting Length: 50 minutes

Meeting Name: District 200 School Board

Headline: Student Participation Report Highlights Overall Increase in Student Involvement But Small Decline in Minority Participation

Events and Testimony: John Stelzer, Athletic Director, and Susan Johnson, Director of Activities, presented the yearly report on student participation in sports and extracurricular activities. There was a 0.3% increase in participation continuing a 5 year upward trend. A 1.1% decrease in participation by African Americans students was also noted. The report also showed that students involved in at least one extracurricular activity have higher GPAs and attendance records than students who don't. The report recommended that the board consider the future impact on facility and budget needs if the upward trend continues.

Dr. Moore asked Mr. Stelzer and Ms. Johnson to look for answers as to why participation by black students is trending slightly down. A plan is in place for a student survey to address this and other questions about student perceptions and concerns. Ms. Dixon Spivy suggested that working with the middle schools to encourage extracurricular participation might result in carry over to OPRF. Mr. Arkin asked if all the supervision/coaching positions had been filled, given an unusually high turnover at the end of the 2017-18 school year. Mr. Stelzer confirmed that all but 3 positions are filled and that the majority of the positions are held by faculty and staff.

What Did the Board Decide: The board unanimously approved all the consent items presented for vote.

What Did the Board Discuss: Policy 4:20 was tabled to allow the board time to review the policy in more depth.

The entire Student Participation Report can be read by accessing the board packet available at <http://www.oprfhs.org>.