

Oak Park River Forest League of Women Voters Eyewitness Report

Observed by: Diana Shea

Date: 1/9/2018 Meeting Length: 1h 12 min

Meeting Name: District 97 Board of Education

HEADLINE: Next steps for Equity Policy to be shaped by Committee on Community Engagement

What did the Board decide?

- D97 Board approved bidders and bid amounts for the Holmes construction project based on recommendation from the Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC).
- D97 Board approved salary increases for Substitute Teaching Assistants, Playground Supervisors, Custodial Substitutes, and Lunchroom Workers. One driver for these increases was difficulty filling the positions. The rate increases will not be retroactive, but they will be effective immediately for all those affected.

What else did the Board discuss or refer to committee?

- Laurie Campbell, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, **presented the draft version of the 2019-20 school calendar**, as prepared by the D97 Calendar Committee. Ms Campbell indicated that the start date (Tuesday August 27, 2019) and end date (Thursday June 4, 2020) of the 2019-20 draft calendar year were chosen to balance the needs of aligning with D200 calendar as well as giving ample time for construction at Longfellow in the summer of 2019. The D97 Board will hear public comment on this topic on Feb 13, 2018.
 - Feedback from the Board
 - Align with D200 - Consider being open on Indigenous People's day to align with D200. If D97 is open that day, then perhaps the start date could be pushed back to Wednesday August 28, 2019. This would both support Longfellow's request for more construction time and restore the traditional Wednesday start.
 - Confirm that there will be a polling day in November 2019
- Committee for Community Engagement (CCE)
 - The Board discussed an upcoming training that members of the Committee for Community Engagement will provide for Board

Members as well as **its role in defining next steps for the equity policy.**

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

- Board President Spurlock indicated that should the agenda remain the same, she expects the January 23, 2018 meeting to be a long one. **Superintendent Kelley commented on the upcoming “5 Year Projections” agenda item**, suggesting that the report will kick start a series of listening tours “similar to what the Board did last spring around the referendum” to share some of the things that the District would like to do with the vision. These conversations will need to extend beyond January and February to help the district to continue to refine the vision around certain areas. She did not give any specifics.