

## Oak Park River Forest League of Women Voters Eyewitness Report

Observed by: Diana Shea

Date: Oct 23, 2018      Meeting Length: 4 hours 5 minutes

Meeting Name: District 97 Board of Education

D97 Board Agrees to Pivot Focus of Draft Equity Policy to Race

What did the Board decide?

- The Board decided on how its delegate would vote for a variety of proposals at the upcoming Illinois Association of School Board meeting ([see IASB Resolution Committee Report for detail](#)). The D97 Board will vote against a proposal for legislation that would allow a school district in Illinois to decide to arm teachers.
- The Board agreed to provide public notice of expected vote to approve the levy on Dec 11. The D97 Board also discussed providing tax relief for the 2017 overage through bonding and managing debt. See [memo](#) to superintendent regarding same.
- D97 approved Lincoln/Longfellow construction bid packets. See [memo](#) to superintendent regarding same.
- D97 Board approved increase in pay for people with credentials to teach as a substitute teacher from \$103 to \$110/day ([see detailed memo](#)).
- D97 Board approved to support Village of Oak Park with transportation survey. ([See detailed memo](#)).
- D97 Board approved [revised charge](#) for the Committee for Community Engagement

What else did the Board discuss or refer to committee?

- The D97 Board discussed [Bond Issuance options](#) with representative from Raymond James. FORC will review Options 3, 4 and 5 at their next meeting (11/20/2018).
- The D97 Board discussed [draft changes](#) to the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Park District of Oak Park regarding sharing of facilities. New agreement will be approved on 11/13/2018.
- The D97 Board discussed its goals for the 2018-2019 school year and came up with the following five targets. A subcommittee will continue to refine further.
  1. Referendum update
  2. Supporting development of partner prioritization

3. Transportation review
  4. Parking lot revision
  5. Ambassador guidelines for board members
- Holly Spurlock gave an update from the Board's Policy Committee on the **Equity Policy** draft.
    - Based on the most recent meeting of the committee, which included Holly Spurlock, Rob Breymaier, Superintendent Dr. Kelley, and Administrator Dr. Cam, the recommendation was to ask the Board if the Equity Policy should be a racial policy or an all-encompassing policy.
    - Some Board Members expressed frustration that there was no underlying information provided to pivot to this, despite general agreement that racial equity is a problem worth addressing.
    - After discussion, the Board agreed to limit the next version of the Equity Policy to focus on race.
    - Spatz and Broy both requested that the committee put together a framing document that speaks to 1) why the Board has decided that the policy will focus on race and 2) we are cognizant of these other (itemized..), which we will address by adjusting existing handbook language and .....
    - The committee will update the original policy draft and meet with select community members with some level of expertise in this area on Oct .19/20 and acquire their input. A member also suggested that the possible should be in alignment with D200's equity policy, which is in progress as well.

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

- The D97 Board heard comments from Moms Demand Action, a group of parents opposing the IASB proposal for local control of putting guns in the hands to teachers.

#### Any other comments or observations

- The D97 heard a special report from the [Special Education department](#). This report highlighted the increasing percentage of students in general education classrooms, better referral rates (students found not eligible has dropped significantly). The report also included as special presentation by [YEMBA](#), a non-profit with which the district partners, to provide an after school basketball program to middle school youth, which includes a social emotional leadership development component.