

Oak Park River Forest League of Women Voters Eyewitness Report

Observed by: Diana Shea

Date: Feb 12, 2019 Meeting Length: 4 hours 17 minutes

Meeting Name: District 97 Board of Education

D97 Board Discusses Equity Plan and Considers Making Cuts for Additional Staffing Request

What did the Board decide?

- The Board added another meeting for Feb 20, 2019.

What else did the Board discuss or refer to committee?

- The Board discussed the [Equity Plan](#) in great detail. In general, the comments dealt with semantics and suggestions to strengthen the plan with greater detail. The Board will revisit at the Feb 20, 2019 meeting and will plan to vote on the policy before March 12, 2019. Based on the discussion that took place, the Policy is expected to be adopted unanimously.
- The Board heard a [Staffing Report](#) from Superintendent Kelley and the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources with a prioritized list of staffing requests for School Year 2019-2020. The salary cost of the entire staffing request is \$1,088,807. The memo states that the administration can recommend reductions or cost savings measures to fund the proposal. The administration would like the Board to approve these staffing requests at the Feb 20, 2019 meeting so that it can begin posting the jobs (to ensure a large and diverse candidate pool). Board members expressed that they needed more information regarding the budget in order to feel confident making a decision on that timeline.
- The Board heard a presentation on the **5 Year Projections (see [memo](#) and [graph](#))** from the Vice Superintendent of Finance. Through this discussion we learned that there are about \$640,000 of additional hires embedded into the budget for 2019-2020. Likewise, the Board asked Superintendent Kelley to find approximately \$460,000 of potential cost savings measures to fund the remaining staffing requests. Kelley asked if class size is something that the Board would be open to increasing in order to save cost. Broy asked if the staffing requests would serve the anticipated needs of the Equity Plan. Spatz brought up that he is uncomfortable making cuts without a community engagement piece and equity assessment plan in place. Datta asked if the Administration could post the jobs and begin screening candidates while the

Board continues the discussion to determine which/how many jobs will be approved.

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

- The Board heard Public Comments for 90 minutes related to support of the Equity Plan and students' experiences within the district.