

Oak Park River Forest League of Women Voters Eyewitness Report

Observed by: Diana Shea

Date: 05/28/2019

Meeting Length: 1 hour 45 minutes

Meeting Name: District 97 Board of Education

D97 Administration Changes GTD Program Starting Fall 2019

What did the Board decide?

- The D97 Board approved [overnight and out of state field trips](#) for the 2019-2020 school year.
- The D97 Board approved the [district's request to](#) post job openings for culture and climate coaches at the elementary (2) and middle school (1) levels.
- The D97 Board approved a [five-year facility plan](#).
- The D97 Board approved [renovation of the Irving Community Room](#) to convert it into a 5th grade classroom. The cost of the renovation is \$109,700.

What else did the Board discuss or refer to committee?

- The Board heard a [presentation from administrators](#) regarding the upcoming changes to the **Gifted, Talented and Differentiation (GTD) program**. Communication around this policy change will be critical for equitable access. The policy includes shifting the GTD teaching position to that of an Advanced Learner Facilitator over the next two years. If interested in this new role, the current GTD teachers will work with a GTD consultant during the 19-20 school year and then interview for the new position for the 20-21 school year. Key changes to the program include:
 - coherent curriculum across all eight buildings
 - a larger percentage of the acceleration services will be in-place, rather than pull-out
 - families will be able to recommend/nominate their child for the program
 - formal transition plans will be in place for students who receive whole grade acceleration services
 - data used to identify students will include multiple sources

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

- Dr. Kelley informed the D97 Board that she reviewed the middle school yearbooks as a result of the recent findings in the high school yearbook of symbols of white supremacy in certain photographs. The same symbols were present in both middle school yearbooks, which, unfortunately, have already

gone to print. There are three options to resolve this: 1) reprint both yearbooks (\$14,000 per school), 2) pull out pages and include insert (cost unknown), or 3) black out affected images. The Board will vote on how to handle upon receipt of cost estimate for insert option.

Any other comments or observations