

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

Observed by: Ameri Klafeta

Date: November 14, 2017

Meeting Length: 2 hours

Meeting Name: District 97 Board of Education

### D97 Board considers timing of bond issuance

What did the Board decide?

- The Board **adopted the proposed 2017 levy amounts**. The final levy will be presented at the next meeting, and adopted in December.

What else did the Board discuss or refer to committee?

- Lynda Schueler, the Executive Director of Housing Forward, and Carolyn Newberry Schwartz, member of Core Team of Oak Park Homelessness Coalition, presented a **data sharing agreement** to the Board. The agreement is intended to make it easier for the district to share the names of families who indicate at registration that they are homeless. This will allow the families **to be connected to resources** more easily. This agreement will be voted on at the next meeting.
- The administration presented a recommendation to the Board regarding **classroom space at Lincoln**. Currently, a classroom is being used with a divider to create two separate rooms for kindergartener classes, creating a noisy environment for both classes. The administration considered several options, and **building a permanent wall is the least expensive at \$60,000**. It was unclear from the discussion how the wall be impacted by the planned renovations at Lincoln, although the wall may be incorporated into the plan. This will be voted on at a future meeting.
- A representative of Raymond James presented **options regarding the timing of district's issuance of bonds**. Considerations include taking advantage of interest rates, timing the issuance of bonds with their related spending in order to comply with IRS rules, and the timing of payment of older debt. The Board intends to push back a vote on this issue in order give FORC time to consider the options, with the understanding that the Board may vote on November 27 if FORC recommends acting sooner.

### Any Other Comments or Observations

- The Board's Committee for Legislative Action, Intervention, and Monitoring (CLAIM) will be looking for 3 new members.
- Datta observed that the students performing at the recent CLAIM event with legislators were a non-diverse group.
- Dr. Kelley's next Community Café meeting will be November 29.