

Oak Park River Forest High School Board
February 23, 2017
Mary Haley, Observer

Present: Jeff Weissglass- President, Jackie Moore-Vice-President, Tom Cofsky, Steve Gevinson, Sara Dixon Spivy, Jennifer Cassell and Fred Arkin

Mr. Weissglass called the meeting to order at 7:44.

Public Comments: Community members spoke in support of reworking the sexual assault policy, doing more to incorporate black history and culture into the curriculum and adopting a position on being a welcoming community.

Consent Items: All items except item C were passed unanimously. In a discussion of item C, Tom Cofsky reiterated his belief that technology fees should be covered by the district as a part of providing what is necessary for students' learning environment. The vote was 4-3.

Action Items: The board voted unanimously to approve the FY2016 audit.

Discussion: The Community Council (formerly Citizens' Council) changed its name because of the racist history of White Citizens' Councils, which began in the 1950s.

Dr. Pruitt-Adams listed the existing board policies that already offer protection to students who are immigrants. The administration is studying policies adopted in Oak Park, Evanston, CPS (Chicago Public Schools) and San Francisco and consulting with the district's legal council in preparation of a resolution to be introduced to the board on March 14, 2017. In response to a question about protection for transgender students, Dr. Pruitt-Adams stated that the policy needs revision. Mr. Arkin asked if assumptions about a student's immigration status could be made from class enrollment such as ESL. Dr. Pruitt-Adams explained that no student information can be released without parental consent or a subpoena. Mr. Cofsky inquired if OPRFHS had a policy about ICE agents entering the building. While there is nothing specific in place, the superintendent explained, outsiders are not allowed in the building without going through security. ICE agents would need to present court issued documents to gain access. Ms. Cassell asked that all staff and faculty get professional development training to deal with these issues.

The board provided updates on implementation of the Strategic Plan timeline. Ideas about Climate and Behavior will be presented in April.

The March board meeting will be on Tuesday, March 21.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.